

## Cyngor

Rydych dan wŷs trwy hyn i ddod i gyfarfod **Cyngor Dinas a Sir** i'w gynnal yn Cyfarfod Aml-Leoliad - Siambr y Cyngor, Neuadd y Ddinas / MS Teams ar Dydd Iau, 2 Mawrth 2023 am 5.00 pm.

Gwyllo ar-lein: <http://bit.ly/41aTJpa>

Cynigir trafod y materion canlynol:

1. **Ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb.**
2. **Datgeliadau o fuddiannau personol a rhagfarnol.**  
[www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau](http://www.abertawe.gov.uk/DatgeluCysylltiadau)
3. **Cofnodion.** **1 - 6**  
Cymeradwyo a llofnodi cofnodion y cyfarfod(ydd) blaenorol fel cofnod cywir.
4. **Ymatebion ysgrifenedig i gwestiynau a ofynnwyd yng Nghyfarfod Cyffredinol Diwethaf y Cyngor.** **7 - 8**
5. **Cyhoeddiadau'r Aelod Llywyddol.**
6. **Cyhoeddiadau Arweinydd y Cyngor.**
7. **Cwestiynau gan y Cyhoedd.**  
Gellir cyflwyno cwestiynau'n ysgrifenedig i'r Gwasanaethau Democrataidd [Democratiaeth@abertawe.gov.uk](mailto:Democratiaeth@abertawe.gov.uk) hyd at ganol dydd y diwrnod cyn y cyfarfod. Bydd cwestiynau ysgrifenedig yn cael eu blaenoriaethu.  
Gall y cyhoedd ddod a gofyn cwestiynau'n uniongyrchol os bydd amser.  
Rhaid i gwestiynau fod yn berthnasol i'r eitemau ar ran agored yr agenda ac ymdrinnir â nhw o fewn cyfnod o 10 munud.
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**Gweddarlledu:** Gellir fflmio'r cyfarfod hwn i'w ddarlledu'n fyw neu'n ddiweddarach drwy wefan y cyngor. Drwy gymryd rhan, rydych yn cytuno i gael eich fflmio ac i'r delweddau a'r recordiadau sain hynny gael eu defnyddio at ddibenion gweddarlledu a/neu hyfforddiant o bosib.

**Mae croeso i chi siarad Cymraeg yn y cyfarfod.**

Dywedwch wrthym erbyn canol dydd, ddeuddydd cyn y cyfarfod.

**Cyfarfod nesaf:** Dydd Iau, 30 Mawrth 2023 am 5.00 pm



**Huw Evans**  
**Pennaeth y Gwasanaethau Democrataidd**  
**Neuadd y Ddinas,**  
**Abertawe.**

**Dydd Mercher, 22 Chwefror 2023**

**I: Bob Aelod o'r Cyngor**

# Agenda Item 3.



City and County of Swansea

## Minutes of the Council

Multi-Location Meeting - Council Chamber, Guildhall / MS

Teams

Thursday, 2 February 2023 at 5.00 pm

**Present:** Councillor J P Curtice (Chair) Presided

### Councillor(s)

C Anderson  
S Bennett  
P N Bentu  
P M Black  
A Davis  
A M Day  
P Downing  
C R Doyle  
M Durke  
C M J Evans  
C R Evans  
V M Evans  
R Fogarty  
R Francis-Davies  
N Furlong  
L S Gibbard  
K M Griffiths  
J A Hale  
T J Hennegan  
C A Holley  
P R Hood-Williams  
V A Holland  
B Hopkins

### Councillor(s)

D H Hopkins  
H J Gwilliam  
L James  
O G James  
Y V Jardine  
A J Jeffery  
J W Jones  
D H Jenkins  
L R Jones  
M H Jones  
M Jones  
S M Jones  
S Joy  
E J King  
S E Keeton  
E T Kirchner  
A S Lewis  
M B Lewis  
R D Lewis  
W G Lewis  
P Lloyd  
M W Locke  
N L Matthews

### Councillor(s)

P N May  
J D McGettrick  
F D O'Brien  
A J O'Connor  
D Phillips  
C L Philpott  
J E Pritchard  
S Pritchard  
A Pugh  
S J Rice  
K M Roberts  
B J Rowlands  
R V Smith  
A H Stevens  
M Bailey  
R C Stewart  
L G Thomas  
W G Thomas  
M S Tribe  
G D Walker  
L V Walton  
T M White  
R A Williams

### Officer(s)

Gareth Borsden	Democratic Services Officer
Adrian Chard	Strategic Human Resources and Organisational Development Manager
Caroline Davies	Democratic Services Support Officer
Huw Evans	Head of Democratic Services
Tracey Meredith	Chief Legal Officer / Monitoring Officer
Martin Nicholls	Chief Executive
Ben Smith	Director of Finance / Section 151 Officer

### Apologies for Absence

Councillor(s): E W Fitzgerald, F M Gordon, H Lawson, P M Matthews and H M Morris

**108. Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.**

The Chief Legal Officer gave advice regarding the potential personal and prejudicial interests that Councillors and / Officers may have on the agenda.

The Head of Democratic Services reminded Councillors and Officers that the "Disclosures of Personal and Prejudicial Interests" sheet should only be completed if the Councillor / Officer actually had an interest to declare. Nil returns were not required. Councillors and Officers were also informed that any declarable interest must be made orally and in writing on the sheet.

In accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct adopted by the City and County of Swansea the following interests were declared:

Councillors

- 1) Councillor S M Jones declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 114 "Petition - Waunarlwydd Playing Fields" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.
- 2) Councillors C Anderson, C A Holley, D H Jenkins, E J King, A Pugh, and M T Tribe declared a Personal Interest in Minute 115 "Pay Policy Statement 2023/24".
- 3) Councillor P N May declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 119 "Notice of Motion – Minimum Service Bill" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.

Officers

- 4) G Borsden, A Chard, C Davies, H Evans, T Meredith, M Nicholls, and B Smith declared a Personal & Prejudicial Interest in Minute 115 "Pay Policy Statement 2023/24" and withdrew from the meeting prior to its consideration.

**Note:** A Chard & H Evans did not withdraw as they remained to present the report, run the vote, and record the decision.

**109. Minutes.**

**Resolved** that the following Minutes be approved and signed as a correct record:

- 1) Ordinary meeting of Council held on 1 December 2022.
- 2) Ceremonial meeting of Council held on 8 December 2022.
- 3) Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 12 January 2023.



**110. Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council.**

The Chief Legal Officer submitted an information report setting out the written responses to questions asked at the last Ordinary Meeting of Council.

**111. Announcements of the Presiding Member.**

**a) Condolences**

**i) Father of Councillor Fiona Gordon**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness that to the recent death of the father of Councillor Fiona Gordon.

**ii) Clare Drakeford, Wife of First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford**

The Presiding Member referred with sadness that to the recent death of Clare Drakeford, wife of First Minister of Wales, Mark Drakeford.

All present stood as a mark of sympathy and respect.

**b) Live Broadcast**

The Presiding Member reminded all members of the public that the meeting was being broadcast live. She indicated that care must be taken to avoid any abusive or defamatory comments against Officers, Councillors or other members of the public.

**112. Announcements of the Leader of the Council.**

**a) Cycling Member Champion**

Councillor Joe A Hale has been appointed as the Cycling Member Champion. A list of Member Champions may be viewed at [www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrchampions](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/cllrchampions)

**b) Levelling Up Bid Success**

The Leader of Council stated that the UK Government has approved a levelling-up bid from Swansea Council for the project, which is aimed at further regenerating the Lower Swansea Valley.

The major new project will preserve Swansea's industrial heritage, breathe more life into the River Tawe corridor and create jobs and investment has been given a £20m funding boost.

**113. Public Questions.**

David Davies asked a Public Question in relation to Minute 118 "Notice of Motion - Minimum Service Bill".

The Leader of the Council responded.

**114. Petition - Waunarwydd Playing Fields.**

The Head of Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer submitted a report which outlined the background details to the Waunarwydd Playing Fields Petition which contained more than 500 signatures.

Suzanne Jeffreys (Lead Petitioner) addressed Council and outlined the basis and background to its submission.

The Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism responded.

Council debated the Petition.

**Resolved** that the Petition be noted, and no action taken.

**115. Pay Policy Statement 2023/24.**

The Director of Corporate Services submitted a report that sought approval of the Pay Policy for the City and County of Swansea for 2023/24.

**Resolved** that the Pay Policy Statement 2023-2024 as attached at Appendix A to the report be approved and published.

**116. Public Participation Strategy.**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that sought the adoption of a Public Participation Strategy.

**Resolved** that the Public Participation Strategy as outlined in the report be adopted and added to the Council Constitution.

**Note:** Councillors L V Walton & R C Stewart asked that consideration be given when the Strategy was next reviewed to adding a paragraph outlining the importance of the Corporate Development Committees.

**117. Councillors' Questions.**

**1) Part A 'Supplementary Questions'**

Six (6) Part A 'Supplementary Questions' were submitted. The relevant Cabinet Member(s) responded by way of written answers contained in the Council Summons.

Those supplementary questions required a written response are listed below.

**Question 2**

Councillor S Bennett asked and outlined concerns relating to anti-social behaviour that's occurring at the Coastal Park. It is likely that the incomplete nature of the Coastal Park is causing many of these anti-social behaviours. Can the Cabinet Member provide a clear timeline for the completion of the Coastal Park?

The Wellbeing Cabinet Member stated a written response would be provided.

**2) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions'**

Two (2) Part B 'Questions not requiring Supplementary Questions' were submitted.

**118. Notice of Motion - Minimum Service Bill.**

Proposed by Councillor R C Stewart and Seconded by Councillor M Jones.

*"This Council is appalled by the UK government's draft legislation which proposes to limit the ability of health workers from exercising their right to strike.*

*This ill-thought out and unnecessary legislation will prevent many professions including doctors, nurses, and other health workers from taking strike action, or place them in a position where they are facing dismissal.*

*Minimum standards of service are already maintained within the health service during industrial action, so this legislation is completely unnecessary, and looks like an ideological attack on workers' rights, at a time when the main threat to patient safety is the inability to recruit staff due to inadequate pay and poor working conditions.*

*Council notes that this legislation comes from the same Tory Government, which during the Covid pandemic, encouraged us all to clap for these very same doctors and nurses, who were risking their lives day in day out, while ministers in the Tory government, and the then prime minister himself, were partying and breaking the rules they expected the whole country to follow.*

*This Council condemns the action of the UK Government in bringing forward this legislation and calls upon the prime minister and his ministers to withdraw these egregious proposals. We also call upon the Leader of Council to write to the prime minister in the strongest possible terms to outline our concerns."*

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 30 "Voting" a recorded vote was requested. The voting was recorded as follows:

<b>For (59 Councillors)</b>		
<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>	<b>Councillor(s)</b>
C Anderson	V A Holland	M W Locke

Minutes of the Council (02.02.2023)  
Cont'd

S Bennett	C A Holley	N L Matthews
P N Bentu	B Hopkins	J D McGettrick
P M Black	D H Hopkins	D Phillips
J P Curtice	O G James	C L Philpott
A Davis	Y V Jardine	J E Pritchard
P Downing	A J Jeffery	S Pritchard
C R Doyle	D H Jenkins	A Pugh
M Durke	J W Jones	S J Rice
C R Evans	M H Jones	K M Roberts
C M J Evans	M Jones	R V Smith
V M Evans	S M Jones	A H Stevens
R A Fogarty	S A Joy	R C Stewart
R Francis-Davies	S E Keeton	L G Thomas
N Furlong	E J King	M S Tribe
L S Gibbard	E T Kirchner	G D Walker
K M Griffiths	A S Lewis	L V Walton
H J Gwilliam	M B Lewis	T M White
J A Hale	W G Lewis	R A Williams
T J Hennegan	P Lloyd	-

**Against (1 Councillor)**

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
R D Lewis	-	-

**Abstain (7 Councillors)**

Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)	Councillor(s)
M Bailey	F D O'Brien	B J Rowlands
P R Hood-Williams	A J O'Connor	W G Thomas
L R Jones	-	-

**Withdrawn from meeting due to declarable interest (1 Councillor)**

Councillor	Councillor	Councillor
P N May	-	-

**Resolved** that the Notice of Motion outlined above be adopted.

The meeting ended at 6.44 pm

**Chair**

# Agenda Item 4.



## Report of the Chief Legal Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### Written Responses to Questions asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council

The report provides an update on the responses to Questions asked during the Meeting of Council held on 2 February 2023.

#### For Information

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 It was agreed at Council on 8 April 2010 that a standing item be added to the Council Summons entitled “Written Responses to Questions Asked at the Last Ordinary Meeting of Council”.
- 1.2 A “For Information” report will be compiled by the Democratic Services Team collating all written responses from the last Ordinary Meeting of Council and placed in the Agenda Pack;
- 1.3 Any consequential amendments be made to the Council Constitution.

#### 2. Responses

- 2.1 Responses to questions asked during the last ordinary meeting of Council are included as Appendix A.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** Appendix A (Questions & Responses)

**Providing Council with Written Responses to Questions asked at Council  
2 February 2023**

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Councillor S Bennett</b></p> <p><b>In relation to Minute 117 – Councillor Questions - Question 2</b>          Asked and outlined concerns relating to anti-social behaviour that's occurring at the Coastal Park. It is likely that the incomplete nature of the Coastal Park is causing many of these anti-social behaviours. Can the Cabinet Member provide a clear timeline for the completion of the Coastal Park.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</b></p> <p>The Park was completed last year and is fully operational. There are some ongoing snagging issues, predominantly small repairs, that will continue for the next few weeks but these will have no effect on operation.</p> <p>The coastal park, being part of the new Copr Bay development has a team of staff on or close to the site, providing a presence to help deter anti-social behaviour. As well as the presence of Parks Rangers throughout the day carrying out cleaning and greening duties, City Centre rangers also patrol the area periodically during the day and some evenings as part of their city centre patrols. All staff are encouraged to report any anti-social behaviour observed to the police who also carry out patrols of the area as part of their operations. Additional security is also provided by the CCTV cameras throughout the area, with at least 5 of these having coverage of the coastal park.</p>
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# Agenda Item 8.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council - 2 March 2023

### Medium Term Financial Planning 2024/25 to 2026/27

<b>Purpose:</b>	This Report sets out the rationale and purpose of the Medium Term Financial Plan and details the major funding assumptions for the period and proposes a strategy to maintain a balanced budget.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal Services, Access to Services, Cabinet Members and Corporate Management Team
<b>Recommendations:</b>	It is recommended that:-  1) The Medium term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2026/27 be approved as the basis for future service financial planning.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1. Service and financial planning continues to be undertaken against a backcloth of increasing service pressures and demand. Again this year there is the added pressure and uncertainty as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has affected short-term planning and is expected to continue impact the budget in the medium term.
- 1.2. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is an overarching strategy that:
- Covers three future years.
  - Forecasts future known additional spending requirements, likely resources and potential funding shortfalls.
  - Links to the Council's adopted strategy '*Swansea – Achieving Better Together*' as a means of addressing future budget shortfalls.

- Links to the Council's revised Corporate Plan, "Delivering for Swansea" and the delivery of our top 6 priorities.
- Has due regard to our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Future detailed Service planning will need to be undertaken within the financial assessments and forecasts contained within the Medium term Financial Plan.

- 1.3. **It is important to understand that the MTFP does not constitute a formal budget in respect of the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 and as such the indicative annual assumptions included both within the projected spending pressures detailed in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, and the potential funding detailed in Sections 4 and 5, will be subject to a full review and decision making process as part of each of the annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax setting decisions.**
- 1.4. Instead, the MTFP is intended to outline, in broad terms, the specific service and funding issues over the three year period and how the Council will, within its financial constraints, fund its priorities and achieve major service change and savings.
- 1.5. It is essential as a planning and review tool in order to assess, on an ongoing basis, base assumptions around service pressures and progress against delivery of savings.
- 1.6. The plan serves to highlight the trend for increasingly uncertain times ahead in terms of funding for this Council and Local Government in general, as well as the service pressures that the Council faces from rising demands and increases in demography, together with potential funding pressures arising from ambitious plans for capital development.
- 1.7. Importantly, it is essential that the MTFP is a 'living' document that is subject to regular review and revisions as more information becomes available and risks are updated. As such, it is anticipated that, along with close monitoring of the specific budget proposals and savings targets for 2023/24, further reports to Cabinet and Council regarding the MTFP will be made as necessary. In particular, the Mid Term Budget Statement in the autumn of 2023 will provide a key update on the financial outlook and delivery of savings.
- 1.8. The MTFP is one of many documents that are produced in terms of financial planning and control. These include:-
  - The annual Revenue and Capital Budgets of the Authority
  - The annual HRA Capital and Revenue Budgets
  - The formal quarterly budget monitoring reports presented to Cabinet
  - The Mid-term Budget Statement intended to be produced each year as an aid to strategic review on progress
  - The Revenue and Capital Outturn Statements taken to Cabinet following year end



- The Statement of Accounts produced and approved by Council annually.
- 1.9. The MTFP is intended to form a logical flow from an assessment of forecast resources over the medium term through each step of a structured planning process for future years and as such it specifically details:-
- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Section 2 | Overview of financial planning environment 2024/25 – 2026/27                                  |
| Section 3 | Detailed spending and resources forecast 2024/25 – 2026/27                                    |
| Section 4 | Strategy to address future savings requirements   |
| Section 5 | A summary of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Swansea – Achieving Better Together Strategy. |
| Section 6 | Medium Term Financial planning for Schools  |
| Section 7 | Risks and issues implicit within the MTFP   |
| Section 8 | Use of reserves   |
| Section 9 | Legal and Equalities implications   |

## **2. Overview of Financial Planning Environment 2024/25 to 2026/27**

- 2.1. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) report considered by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 included a service and financial overview. This was updated in the budget proposals report given to Cabinet in December 2022 and February 2023.

### ***Economic Outlook and Prospects for Public Finances***

- 2.2. The announcement of the provisional Revenue and Capital Settlement for 2023/24 resulted in an overall cash increase of £31.182m in 2023/24 compared to 2022/23. There has been one transfer into the settlement so far, in respect of the Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP) for Mumbles seawall (£1.556m). It is likely there will be a further transfer in respect of the Fire Authority, and an estimate has been made for this in the updated proposals. There is an increase of just over £29.6m in block grant after allowing for this change. Whilst this is a much appreciated, substantial increase, it needs to be set in the context of the forecast cost of pressures faced by this Council – around £60m for 2023/24 alone.
- 2.3. The current economic climate continues to be uncertain, even more so at the moment, and the Welsh Government acknowledged in their letter to all Local Authorities that local government is facing significant pressures. There is and will continue to be uncertainty over the UK's relationship with Europe and the impact on Wales post Brexit as well as the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is still the case that the Section 151 Officer assumes the Welsh Government budget will be expected to reduce in real terms over the latter period to 2026/27 notwithstanding the short term boosts for the current and next year budget.
- 2.4. Of course, the level of Welsh Government devolved Block Grant is not the only determinant of Welsh Government support for Local Authorities. It is possible that further delegation and transfer of powers and rights from

Westminster to Cardiff, together with further tax changing/raising powers, may impose greater or lesser financial risks to Welsh Government than is currently the case. There is also the fact that Welsh Government has to decide on its own cross-sectoral allocation of devolved funding to public services in Wales.

- 2.5. Whilst it is a very positive provisional settlement for 2023/24, there is no certainty that it can continue at such a relatively high level in future years and, in addition to possible real terms reductions in future core funding, the Council also has a wide range of service and demographic pressures which will inevitably impact on demand for services. Equally clearly, there is a potential for further UK Government announcements to impact on costs borne by the Council, particularly in respect of any changes to taxation. The clear example is of the changes to the National Living Wage, which will add around £3.8m to the Council's annual costs.
- 2.6. As mentioned above, a further complicating factor over the period of the MTFP involves proposals to devolve further tax varying powers from Westminster to the Welsh Government. Whilst this notionally impacts primarily on individual taxation, devolution of National Business Rates (NDR) has the potential to impact directly on Local Authority budgets and risk. Latest proposals, for example, are to devolve the cost of welfare provision in Wales to the Welsh Government with all the risk regarding cost movement.
- 2.7. In terms of core revenue funding, the provisional Revenue settlement issued by the Welsh Government in December 2022 gave a detailed settlement level for 2023/24 only, however there was an indication of the likely funding levels for Local Government for 2024/25 also. Whilst only indicative it is nevertheless a very welcome tool to assist future forecasting by Authorities. The likely level of funding indicated is increase of 3.0% for 2024/25 slightly higher than the indication given last year but nevertheless significantly lower than the increases received in the past three years.
- 2.8. All this of course has to be set against a backdrop of significant global instability where events can impact significantly – and at short notice – on the UK economy and the overall UK economic outlook.
- 2.9. For the purposes of the planning assumptions, although future year indications are very helpful, they are only indications at an all Wales level. Swansea's actual increase could be higher or lower than the headline increase. Furthermore it is possible that the all Wales headline figure will be different to the indication, given the Welsh Government is reliant on the funding that flows from the UK Government. As such it is good practice to forecast a range of potential funding scenarios, each of which will result in differing financial forecast for the Council over the period covered. The forecasts will be updated using the mid-term budget statement to Council each year to reflect the best information available on a rolling basis. For the purposes of the MTFP, forecasts will be based around a range of scenarios between cash flat (0%), an increase of 3% and an increase of 7.6%.

2.10. These are scenarios to demonstrate the range of possibilities and are entirely contingent upon UK and Welsh Government future budget decisions.

Year	AEF Standstill @ 0% £'000	AEF Increase @ 3% £'000	AEF Increase @ 7.6% £'000
2024/25	0	12,500	31,700
2025/26	0	12,900	34,200
2026/27	0	13,300	36,800
<b>Cumulative</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>38,700</b>	<b>102,700</b>

Note that the above scenarios are based on the provisional AEF for 2023/24 of £417.775m as announced in December 2022.

The above represents a spread in terms of potential overall increases over the life of the MTFP, which will have to be updated on a regular basis.

**The compounding effect of this key assumption is substantial over the life of the MTFP – the savings ask could be considerably higher if the actual increase is less than the range (of 3% - 2%) used as a planning assumption or considerably less if the settlements are more than assumed.**

- 2.11. During the timescale of the MTFP there are a significant number of events which could impact on some of the major assumptions made. These include:
- Any voluntary or joint arrangements, including regionalisation, in lieu of compulsory Local Government reorganisation in Wales;
  - Wider events that could impact on the Global economic position;
  - The impact of the final exit package agreed by the UK Government in respect of Brexit.
  - The on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

### ***Support for Capital Programmes***

- 2.12. The provisional settlement indicated support for future General Fund Capital programme at a level of £12.882 for 2023/24, an increase of £2.160m compared to 2022/23. This has put the allocation back to where it was before 2022/23, but is still only just sufficient to meet the current budget allocations to cover core commitments

This settlement support is through a mix of General Capital Grant and support for borrowing. Wider capital support elsewhere is however very significant and must be equally recognised.

Planning assumptions over the life of the MTFP are based on unchanged levels of capital support, in the absence of any further indications from the Welsh Government.

As reported elsewhere on this agenda, in the Capital Budget & Programme 2022/23- 2027/28 Report, there is an ambitious capital investment programme. This includes the continued investment in Swansea Schools, through the Band B phase of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme (now called the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme) and major capital schemes flowing from the Swansea Bay City Deal including the Swansea Arena and the Digital Village. There will also be continued investment in IT across the Council, as well as a significant programme to assist the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The capital investment identified above will attract significant grant funding (21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Swansea Bay City Deal), however the programme will still require material unsupported borrowing to enable completion.

- 2.13. The total estimated cost of the Band B schools programme envelope is £149.5m (if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded this amounts to £141.3m). Of this total, £124m is being sought from traditional capital funding, requiring (after allowance for realisable capital and other receipts) a net local funding requirement of £34.5m. The remaining £25.19m (or £16.975m if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded) is expected to be delivered through revenue funding (Mutual Investment Model), which would require no local capital funding contribution but incur an annual charge once the accommodation and facilities are completed. An equivalent local share of the capital cost would be £3.225m although the 19% local contribution would apply to the annual revenue charge.
- 2.14. The capital financing strategy underpinning the capital budget seeks to maximise grants, supported borrowing, contributions and capital receipts in order to minimise the need to borrow. The borrowing requirement identified to support the capital programme is significant and shall require substantial revenue support to service. The revenue implications are reported in the Revenue Budget elsewhere on this agenda. The revenue implications are considered affordable and sustainable over the cycle of the programme.
- 2.15. As indicated above, the position remains that should such capital receipts not materialise the Council will have no option but to consider reductions in spend, seek alternative sources of funding or, as a last resort, consider additional borrowing which shall place a further burden on revenue finances.
- 2.16. In the recent past, the Council has sought to minimise its external borrowing by the use of internal funds, which is entirely consistent with good Treasury Management policy given historic low interest rates on investments and avoiding the 'cost of carry', which has served this Authority well. Sustained internalisation of borrowing requirement and the significant funding required for the capital programme from 2021/22 onwards and the planned medium term depletion of earmarked Reserves and Provisions means that

externalisation of this funding became inevitable. This strategy has proved particularly beneficial to the Council's capital funding strategy as it took advantage of volatility in PWLB rates prevailing and undertook the required PWLB borrowing in 2021/22 at all-time low rates achieved by this Authority, therefore removing interest rate risk for the short medium term.

- 2.17. It remains the case that each year the Council sets aside a significant amount of money (c £16.4m 2021/22) called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) towards the repayment of debt. This provision is in line with the Council's existing MRP Policy, which was revised in 2018/19. This effective repayment will have to be taken into account when evaluating overall borrowing levels and the ability to service any additional borrowing requirement.
- 2.18. The additional capital investment identified above will attract significant grant funding (especially 21st Century Schools and Swansea City Region Deal), however the programme will still require a material unsupported borrowing to enable completion alongside the use of capital receipts as they are realised. Furthermore some schemes have the potential to provide additional revenue streams of property income, or, subject to agreement, in due course, with Welsh Government, retained elements of non-domestic rates or possibly tax increment financing as further powers devolve to Welsh Government and then on to local government.
- 2.19. Notwithstanding this scale of ambition, each major scheme will, as always, be considered on the overall merits of each business case, both in capital cost, and revenue income streams where appropriate. Unsupported borrowing will be undertaken on a phased basis within the overall envelope for affordability.

### **3. Detailed Spending and Resources Forecast 2024/25 to 2026/27**

- 3.1. The Capital Budget report forecasts capital spending and resources in the period covered by the MTFP.
- 3.2. In terms of the Revenue Budget, and in the context of financial planning over the period of the MTFP, the overriding issue is likely to be the need to make significant ongoing savings in Service Expenditure in order to meet known and anticipated spending pressures.
- 3.3. The following table represents the expected funding requirements (based on current policies and decisions) for the period of the MTFP – **these are pressures and must be read in conjunction with the funding plans and indicative solutions set out in 5.4:**

**Projected Spending Pressures/Funding Deficiency 2023/24 – 2025/26**

	Note	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Future cost of pay awards	1			
- Non Teachers		6,828	12,637	18,550
- Teachers (Local top up required)		5,900	10,400	14,800
Impact of 2022/23 pay award	2			
- LG Staff		315	585	863
- Teachers		95	176	259
National Living Wage – pay bill	3	1,200	2,400	3,600
National Living Wage – contracts		3,000	7,400	12,400
Increase in Pension Costs	4	0	0	1,400
Teachers Pension Costs	5			
- LG Staff		260	260	260
- Teachers		7,750	7,750	7,750
Cumulative contract inflation	6	0	700	1,900
Energy Price Inflation	7	-3,000	-5,000	-5,000
Replace Temporary Use of Reserve Funding	7	8,000	9,100	9,100
Repay Use of Recovery Fund	7	0	3,200	5,000
Capital charges	8	1,000	2,000	3,000
Use of Capital Equalisation Reserve	8	-1,000	-2,000	-3,000
Add to/Reduce Contingency	9	215	-2,527	-2,486
Demographic and Service pressures	10	3,000	6,000	9,000
Mid and West Wales Fire authority Levy ( <b>independently decided by the Fire Authority</b> )	11	1,230	2,230	3,230
Corporate Joint Committee Levy	11	10	21	32
Council Tax Support Scheme	12	1,350	2,700	4,150
Rebase ICT Cloud costs	13	500	1,000	1,000
Social Care extra money for Adults Services	14	2,500	5,000	5,000
Agreed Service Pressures	15	422	713	716
<b>Total known pressures / investment into services</b>		<b>39,575</b>	<b>64,745</b>	<b>91,524</b>
Total Savings Requirement	16	-20,301	-29,571	-39,850
<b>Net Funding Requirement</b>		<b>19,274</b>	<b>35,174</b>	<b>51,674</b>
Aggregate External Finance Increase @ 3%, 2%, 2%	17	12,274	20,774	29,574
Council Tax Assumption at 5% (see Section 4)	18	7,000	14,400	22,100
<b>Total Resource Investment</b>		<b>19,274</b>	<b>35,174</b>	<b>51,674</b>

Alternative scenarios at differing levels of Welsh Government Support – if AEF turns out to be higher or lower than the planning assumption

<b>Additional Money Available for Investment if 7.6% AEF (i.e. continues at current year increase)</b>		<b>19,500</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>
<b>OR</b>				
<b>Additional Savings needed if 0% AEF</b>		<b>-12,274</b>	<b>-20,774</b>	<b>-29,574</b>

Notes:

1. *The pay award figures represent a forecast increase of 3% for all staff, reducing to 2.5% over the life of the MTFP.*
2. *There will be a residual impact of the 2022/23 flat rate pay award (inflationary increases, this will merge and become part of the usual pay award figures in future MTFPs)*
3. *Assumed increases due to implementation of National Living Wage - will affect contract prices and lower end of own pay scale.*
4. *The latest forecast from the triennial revaluation of the local government pension scheme effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 indicates a short term reduction to the contributions made (3.4%). This is expected to end in 2026/27 where the contributions are budgeted to begin to increase once more.*
5. *There will be a national increase in Teachers Pension costs from 2024/25. We have made a prudent, worst-case estimate.*
6. *Reflects the assumed minimum cumulative effect of contract inflation.*
7. *Energy inflationary cost increases are expected to be substantial next year. This large increase has been temporarily funded from reserves, this funding will need to be replaced and repaid over time.*
8. *The additional estimated borrowing costs arising from the new and regional capital programme. Cabinet have prudently built up earmarked reserves to reduce the impact of increased capital charges in respect of new schemes, and targeted use of these reserves is now being built into the MTFP.*
9. *A small sum to be added to the contingency to allow for changes to (for example) the estimates on levies. Contingency will be reduced over the latter years of the MTFP reflecting the assumption that current economic turbulence will reduce over time.*
10. *Assumed Demographic and Service pressures mainly around Schools and Adult and Children's Services.*
11. *Estimated increases for Fire Authority Levy and Corporate Joint Committee Levy.*
12. *Reflects the assumed cost of Council Tax Support Scheme costs based on Council Tax increases as a planning assumption only at this stage.*
13. *To rebase permanently some demand led pressures in Corporate Services predominantly around ICT cloud provision.*
14. *Following the introduction of the new Social Care Levy additional funding for social care has been allocated.*
15. *The future year impact of service specific pressures agreed as part of the suite of 2023/24 budget reports.*

16. *The future year impact of service specific savings agreed as part of the suite of 2023/24 budget reports.*
17. *Reflects the Welsh Government provisional guideline assumption for 2024/25 of a 3% increase in 2024/25. With 2% estimated from 2025/26 onwards.*
18. *Reflects the Council Tax assumption of 5% as detailed in Section 4.*

3.4. As stated, this forecast contains limited provision for increases in net service costs, in particular there is no provision for :-

- Any increase in costs arising from decisions on Government taxation – most significantly increases arising from landfill tax costs.
- Corporate costs in excess of budget provision in respect of issues relating to higher than assumed employee costs (higher than 3% (2024/25) and 2.5% (future years) pay awards), or bigger movements in minimum statutory wage.
- Any one off costs arising from changes to service delivery across the Council, including transformational change.
- Any general inflation provision relating to non-contractual issues.
- Any increased costs or reductions in income arising from changes to welfare reform the lifetime of the MTFP.
- Any budget changes arising from further regionalisation of any services.
- Any increases in Capital financing charges beyond those allowed for which is dependent on the Council achieving a level of capital receipts as detailed within the Capital budget submitted for approval elsewhere on this agenda and is wholly dependent on decisions around potential externalising of internal borrowing.
- Future funding decisions in respect of protection for Social Services or Delegated Schools' budgets which may be specified by the Welsh Government in future budget settlements.
- Any potential downward movement in service specific grants, some of which we have experienced at short notice in the past.
- Any ongoing increase on non-funded schemes including the Teachers' Pension Scheme at a future date.

3.5. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 is now in force and there is likely to be financial implications associated with implementation of certain duties under the Act.

#### **4. Strategy to Address Future Savings Requirements: Swansea – Achieving Better Together**

4.1. The scale of the financial, demographic and sustainability challenge requires the Council to continue to adopt a radically different approach to previous years. An approach that focused on:

- *The core future purpose of the Council*
- *The transformation of services and the model of delivery*
- *Greater collaboration with other councils and local organisations, community groups and residents*
- *And, above all, sustainable solutions with prevention at its heart.*



This ambition was set out in *Sustainable Swansea – fit for the future*, our long-term plan for change, underpinned by our Innovation Programme.

- 4.2. The Sustainable Swansea Strategy was agreed by Cabinet and reported to Council in October 2013. The Delivery Programme was approved by Cabinet on 29 July 2014 and was subject to further review and refresh at Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
- 4.3. A major refresh undertaken in 2020 recognised that it has successfully delivered the bulk of £70m worth of savings asks, and enabled the Council to maintain services, performance levels and protect jobs during a period of austerity. However, there are now new challenges and opportunities arising from the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act as well as a changing national political landscape and economic uncertainty including COVID-19 and post-Brexit risks.
- 4.4. Thus, in October 2020 Cabinet approved the new Swansea - Achieving Better Together Transformation Strategy and Programme Framework to strengthen the changes needed due to current circumstances. The new programme builds on and strengthens the Sustainable Swansea approach, and the strategic aims of Swansea – Achieving Better Together will now focus on:
  - The core purpose of the Council
  - Transforming services to be effective and efficient
  - Greater collaboration with other Councils, organisations, community groups and residents, with a focus on regionalisation
  - Balancing the budget for current and future years
  - Greater and more meaningful engagements with our residents and community
  - To meet aspirations and targets within the Medium Term Financial Plan
- 4.5. In November 2022 there was a further report to Cabinet detailing the Council's transformation strategy, vision and goals for 2022 – 2027. Once the detail is finalised over the next few months this will then replace Sustainable Swansea and Achieving better together as the core transformation document underpinning the medium-term financial plan.

#### **Our Service Priorities for 2023/24 and the MTFP Period**

- 4.6. Although the Council is currently focused on a plan to save an additional £70m over the period of the MTFP (since revised as per the December 2022 Budget Proposals report to Cabinet), it is vital to continue to retain Member and management focus on the significant proportion of our budget that remains. Our gross budget is over £820m (excluding Housing Services (HRA)) and we spend just over £1.9m a day on services to residents.
- 4.7. The Council has clear and strong long term ambitions for Swansea and the proposals for savings must be seen in the context of the following:
  - The Council's top 6 priorities and emerging new corporate plan for services to help deliver the well-being of future generations

- The strategic aims of Swansea – Achieving Better Together – which embrace all we do
  - The application of the budget principles – which guides decision making
  - The ongoing and sustained real terms reduction in external funding and the need to meet known budget pressures.
  - All set within the context of emerging from the current COVID-19 pandemic.
- 4.8. The Council’s overall aim is to protect frontline delivery of services as far as possible. However, whilst many things are important, not everything can be a priority. It is important, therefore - particularly in the current climate of significantly stretched real term resources - to set out clearly our expectations on all services and relative priorities for funding in the context of the budget reductions that we face.
- 4.9. This requirement is illustrated sharply by the “gearing” effect of savings on services. In other words, if our current savings requirement (excluding schools) over three years was applied, for example, just to Place Services, the budgets for this area would be completely removed. Consequently, other areas such as Education and Social Care also need to face some relative real terms level of reduction over the next 3 years, given the relative size of their budgets. Equally, however, if the level of funding for 2023/24 were to be sustained in every future year, then these planning assumptions could be very fundamentally reshaped, and savings asks reduced or possibly even eliminated.
- 4.10. A statement of budget priorities and policy statements that flow from this is set out in **Appendix A**. This statement follows an assessment of services in relation to the following criteria:
- **Invest:** Services where the Council will increase levels of investment
  - **Maintain:** services where the Council will broadly maintain current level of spend in the medium term
  - **Remodel:** those services where the Council will reduce the current level of spend over the medium term.

Regardless of relative funding levels, there is also an absolute requirement that **all services** must transform and strive for maximum efficiency.

**Potential Funding 2024/25 to 2026/27**

- 4.11. The Revenue Budget report detailed elsewhere on this agenda identifies possible savings for the 2023/24 financial year. Some of these proposals will generate further savings in future years and so will contribute to the future years’ savings requirement.
- 4.12. In addition, there are a number of service specific savings proposals that are being considered – it should be noted that these have not yet gone out to consultation, but will do so at the appropriate time.

4.13. These are detailed in Appendix B, but are shown in summary below:

	2024/25 £'000	2025/26 £'000	2026/27 £'000
<b>Future Year Impact of current (2023/24) proposals:</b>			
Corporate Services	150	153	153
Finance and CTRS	1,400	1,590	2,590
Education	226	491	491
Social Services	500	925	1,300
Place	1,406	2,626	3,272
	<b>3,682</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>7,806</b>
<b>Future Proposals to be Considered:</b>			
Corporate Services	964	1,577	2,125
Finance and CTRS	0	0	0
Education	100	100	100
Social Services	3,188	4,848	8,298
Place	1,068	2,167	3,827
	<b>5,320</b>	<b>8,692</b>	<b>14,350</b>
<b>Sub-total of Service Specific Savings (as per Appendix B)</b>	<b>9,002</b>	<b>14,477</b>	<b>22,156</b>
Schools*	11,299	15,094	17,694
<b>Total Savings</b>	<b>20,301</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>39,850</b>

\*Schools savings and pressures fall entirely to the delegated budgets and are shown separately as these are decisions for schools to take

4.14. In addition to savings proposals, Council Tax levels must be considered as part of the MTFP. Budgeted gross council tax yield for Swansea for 2022/23 is £136,142,000, which we have rounded to £136 million. This remains the gross yield on Council Tax and it must be borne in mind that any Council Tax increases results in a corresponding increase in the local cost of the Council Tax Support Scheme, (which has been taken account of in the spending pressures above). The Council Tax Base has been assumed to decrease for 2023/24.

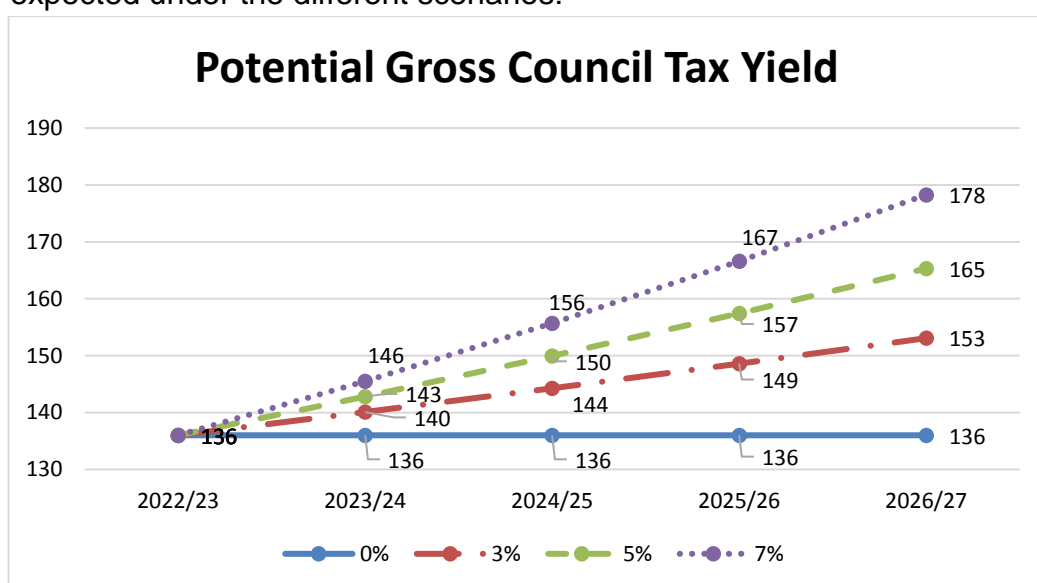
4.15. Policy decisions on the level of Council Tax will of course remain a matter for full Council to determine on an annual basis and it is always relatively challenging to set out a published range of Council Tax options years in advance. Therefore, what follows can only be an indicative assumption to give a plausible range of planning scenarios, to aid the overall understanding of the financial plan.

It should be noted that lower tax increases in earlier years will (all other things being equal) result in higher increases in later years, and as the outlook is for lower settlements in future, persistent, high inflation and an immediate cost of living crisis, the timing of any rises must be weighted and due regard given to the Well Being of Future Generations Act.

The following stylised planning assumptions are made:

- As in the past, there is no formal published upper limit to annual Council Tax increases and therefore no upper limit for planning assumptions, but for modelling purposes an upper limit of 7% is included.
- Given the sheer scale of spending reductions needed to set a future balanced budget it is considered equally implausible (albeit theoretically not impossible) that Council Tax levels will be cut. This provides a lower limit of 0% per annum;
- As middle ground options 3% and 5% are also modelled.
- The stylised assumption included for planning purposes is 5%.

The chart below demonstrates the different levels of Council Tax that could be expected under the different scenarios:



## 5. Summary of the Medium Term Financial Plan and Swansea – Achieving Better Together Strategy

5.1. The summary anticipated savings requirement over the period of the Medium Term Financial Plan is shown below and is extracted from the table shown at paragraph 3.3 of this report.

	<u>2022/23</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2023/24</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2024/25</u> <u>£'000</u>
<b><i>Cumulative Savings Requirement</i></b>	<b>20,301</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>39,850</b>

5.2. The assumptions surrounding the compilation of these figures are given in detail within the table at paragraph 3.3 above and, in particular, are heavily dependent on the assumption of an ongoing increase in AEF for each of the three years covered by the MTFP.

Clearly there is the risk of significant volatility in future years arising from:

- The cumulative effect of any variation in these assumptions in early years
  - The uncertainty around assumptions surrounding the latter years.
- 5.3. Notwithstanding that position, in addressing the ongoing budget deficit, the Council has a number of actions that it can take in terms of achieving a balanced budget. These include:
- Realisation of future years' budget savings arising out of previously agreed savings and 2023/24 consultation proposals
  - Additional Directorate/Service Area targeted savings as detailed in paragraph 4.13 of this report
  - Potential rises in Council Tax levels, as estimated in paragraph 4.15
- 5.4. Bringing these items together, and assuming a balanced position for 2023/24, the following indicative position is envisaged:

	<u>2024/25</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2025/26</u> <u>£'000</u>	<u>2026/24</u> <u>£'000</u>
<b><i>Cumulative savings requirement</i></b>	<b>20,301</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>39,850</b>
<b><i>Future year impact of current service savings proposals</i></b>	<b>-3,682</b>	<b>-5,785</b>	<b>-7,806</b>
<b><i>Future year proposals to be considered</i></b>	<b>-5,320</b>	<b>-8,692</b>	<b>-14,350</b>
<b><i>Schools savings</i></b>	<b>-11,299</b>	<b>-15,094</b>	<b>-17,694</b>
<b><i>Remaining Gap at 3%/2%/2% AEF</i></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b><i>Surplus at 7.6% AEF – which would be available to re-invest, reduce savings and/or lower council tax assumptions</i></b>	<b>19,500</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>73,000</b>
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- 5.5. In terms of addressing the overall budget, there are further options available to the Council that are not yet firm enough to be able to be included in the table above, but nevertheless are being worked through and considered for future inclusion.
- 5.6. These options include reviewing services and funding provided to schools, potential (but no commitment or decision yet to) inclusion of a Tourism Tax and potentially higher or lower than 5% increases to Council Tax. To some extent decisions around these proposals will also be reliant on the annual settlements received from the Welsh Government.
- 5.7. The Council will use the overarching Swansea – Achieving Better Together Strategy when considering all options.

## 6. Medium Term Financial Planning for Schools

- 6.1. The purpose of this section is to highlight the estimated effect of specific spending pressures and potential specific grant reductions on Schools' budgets in the light of funding assumptions detailed elsewhere in this report.
- 6.2. More specifically the Detailed Budget report to Council in respect of the 2023/24 Revenue Budget outlines the specific budget proposals for that year.
- 6.3. It is important to note that, given the size of the potential budget deficit facing the Council over the period of the MTFP, it is envisaged that Schools will be required to make some significant contribution to savings targets during this period. **It should be noted that this is directly linked to the assumption that Teachers Pension costs will increase significantly from 2024/25 (Estimated £7.5m - £8.0m), currently unfunded by either the UK or Welsh Governments. Should funding be included for this cost increase then this will, naturally, reduce the pressure on Schools to make reductions.**
- 6.4. Aside from this, the Council will continue to prioritise education funding and spending pressures and take into account the extent to which these can be met on annual resources available and competing spending needs. It should be noted that at present there is a contribution from Schools built into the budget forecast, however to some extent although this is a planning necessary intention of the Council if settlements prove low, whether this will happen in practice will be entirely reliant on future settlements from the Welsh Government and are likely to be reduced or removed if settlements prove higher than the central planning assumption for AEF.
- 6.5. It is essential that we continue to engage with Schools on a strategic review of provision as simply cutting budgets in real terms without otherwise doing so will simply not work.

## 7. Risks and Issues Implicit within the MTFP

- 7.1. As stated throughout this report the financial risks facing the Council include:
  - Whilst we have certainty for two years from the Welsh Government for indicative settlements, the increases are front loaded and thus remain volatile, leading to much harder temporal choices over council tax levels between years.
  - Assumptions around the core funding support from the Welsh Government being incorrect, particularly if overstated.
  - Ongoing reductions in specific grants that require equivalent reductions in expenditure, often at short notice, which are both uncertain and unpredictable in terms of timing.
  - Delay or non-delivery of key savings strands which are essential to meet the projected service reductions identified in this report.
  - Significant further changes to Central Government fiscal policy with regard to the Public Sector.

- The introduction of new legislation and statutory requirements that impose additional burdens on the Council.
  - The ongoing practical impact of legislation such as the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
  - The ongoing (and unknown) impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 7.2. The table at paragraph 3.3 of this report outlining the potential budget shortfalls over the period of the MTFP contains a significant number of assumptions around future cost pressures, particularly with respect to pay awards, which may have a significant cumulative effect if not settled at the levels indicated. This has the potential to change significantly the projected deficit towards the end of the planning period.
- 7.3. The assumptions contained within the plan specifically assume:
- The Council will deliver a balanced revenue outturn in respect of the current and future financial years and, to that extent, no deficits are identified that would require additional funding in future years.
  - The Capital programme is constrained to the extent that the maximum additional debt charges that are incurred (which should be considered temporary until capital receipts are achieved) do not exceed the sums included in the MTFP. In particular that any additional borrowing requirements in respect of aspirational capital development will be met from additional income generation from such schemes or a combination of funding from the public and private sector that evidences financial sustainability.
  - The Council continues to achieve its ambitious savings targets.
- 7.4. It is assumed that there will be substantive change to the structure of service delivery, including additional regionalisation of services. It is however far too early to financially quantify and describe those changes so they are explicitly excluded at present.

## **8. Use of Reserves**

- 8.1. The purpose of this section is to highlight the current planned use of General Reserves to support the 2023/24 Revenue Budget and to outline the relationships between known risks and earmarked reserves and its effect on planning assumptions. An analysis of the current position is given in paragraphs 8.3 to 8.8 below.
- 8.2. Conclusions and recommendations in respect of reserves usage are given in paragraph 8.9 below.
- 8.3. The current 2022/23 Revenue Budget was set with no planned use of General Reserves.
- 8.4. In terms of planning assumptions there is no assumption of ongoing use of or availability of General Reserves in 2023/24 or beyond.

- 8.5. Whilst the Council maintains a number of specific reserves they are not factored into planning assumptions because they are either ring-fenced under statute or scheme of delegation (e.g. Schools' delegated reserves), or they are earmarked to meet known liabilities. (The exceptions to this are the already agreed use of the Capital Equalisation Reserve for targeted capital investment and the temporary use of the Economic Recovery Fund as an Energy Inflation Fund).
- 8.6. In October 2022 Council received and approved a report which re-allocated earmarked reserves based on known changes to the risk profile of the Council and it is anticipated that a similar report will be taken on an annual basis.
- 8.7. Allowing this consideration outside of the annual budget process, and after previous year outturn is known, will give elected Members better opportunity to reflect on the level of General and earmarked reserves in line with the guidance detailed in paragraph 8.10 below.
- 8.8. In addition, various sections highlighted throughout this report refer to significant ongoing risk around current activities.
- 8.9. It remains the position that until these significant risks are fully mitigated then any additional planned use of earmarked reserves to support general revenue budget deficits would be inappropriate.**
- 8.10. On 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016 the Welsh Government issued guidance to Local Authority Members on matters to be taken into consideration when scrutinising the level of Local Authority Reserves held at any point in time. This has been circulated to all Members and any recommendation relating to the holding or release of reserves will be undertaken with reference to the principles underpinning best practice as issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy and this guidance.

## **9. Legal and Equalities Implications**

### **Legal Implications**

- 9.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 9.2. The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.



- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 9.3. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'. Appendix D is a letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.
- 9.4. Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language
- 9.5. The budget reductions implicit in the 2022/23 approved budget were subject to the corporate and appropriate Integrated Impact Assessment process, which was considered as part of the overall budget process.
- 9.6. Where additional budget savings requirements are identified as part of the 2023/24 and MTFP budget processes they will be subject to the integrated impact assessment process (including relevant consultation and engagement) as part of the budget considerations for those financial years.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A Statement of Budget Principles and Service Budget Priorities

Appendix B Savings Proposals

Appendix C Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Appendix D – Letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

**Statement of Budget Principles and Service Budget priorities**

**GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALL SERVICES**

1. A number of principles apply to all the Council's services, regardless of the assessment of relative priorities. These are set out below.

**Budget Principles**

2. The Council has adopted a number of Budget Principles that underpin the budget strategy:

<i>Everything is included</i>	<i>Increased income</i>
<i>Engagement</i>	<i>Different models of delivery</i>
<i>We will have less money</i>	<i>Supporting those at risk</i>
<i>Demonstrating efficiency</i>	<i>Evidence base</i>
<i>Cutting Red Tape</i>	<i>Sustainable outcomes/prevention</i>
<i>Full cost recovery</i>	<i>Personal Responsibility</i>

All Services must apply and be consistent with these Budget Principles.

All Services are also required to address these Principles as part of business planning and developing savings proposals.

**Service Transformation and Efficiency**

3. There are expectations upon all Services in relation to transformation and efficiency, which must be met regardless of relative priority for funding:

<b>Transformation</b>	<p>All services must identify and progress transformation opportunities that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver better outcomes</li> <li>• develop a sustainable delivery model, fit for the future</li> <li>• reduce costs and secure value for money</li> </ul>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>All services must continue to strive for efficiency, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce management and other overheads</li> <li>• maximise opportunities for increasing income from charges, trading and external sources</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the cost of purchasing supplies and services</li> <li>• work with others to achieve better outcomes</li> <li>• look for opportunities for residents or community groups to take or share responsibility for services</li> </ul>
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#### 4. STATEMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES: SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Education is continuing to deliver a consistent and coherent budget strategy across delegated and non-delegated budgets.

Budget proposals offer additional funding to schools which should be sufficient to meet currently anticipated pay inflation, and wider pressures, such as Additional Learning Needs.

Whilst recognising the relative priority given to Education (and Social Services), further significant savings cannot be made in future years without reductions in real terms in the Schools Delegated Budget.

Moreover, further significant cuts in the remaining non-delegated education budgets will have a direct impact on areas of pupil specific support and further reduce the support that can be provided to schools from the department against a context of increasing demands and expectations.

At the same time, greater focus is being given to the regional delivery of services, with a fundamental review of those services being delivered through the new regional partnership in the coming years.

A continuing move towards a fundamentally different relationship between schools and the local authority is required, reflecting the challenges and opportunities presented by the national changes in curriculum and support for additional learning needs. By its very nature, this is a long-term strategy. The future model for Education provision includes:

- Radically changing the way support for pupils is provided – more flexible earlier intervention and support, as local as possible
- A consistent approach to support the needs of all pupils through a continuum of support
- Integrating and aligning services with Social Services and other agencies such as Health
- Working more closely with communities, recognising the role of schools at the heart of their communities, seeking to minimise transport costs and, wherever feasible, co-locate other services on school sites to aid sustainability (where revenue and capital funding streams are at least sufficient to cover the costs involved).

We will deliver this through:

- Coherent revenue and capital strategies
- Optimising the level of delegation of funding and responsibilities to schools to allow the greatest flexibility in the use of the available resources

- Supporting earlier intervention and support for pupils:
  - Implementing the changes that underpin the ALN Act
  - Providing increasingly targeted specialist support, reflecting the findings of the independent behaviour review
  - Building further capacity in mainstream educational provision and in county specialist provision
  - Empowering and facilitating more collaborative school-to-school support
  - Ensuring delivery of Out of County places for specialist provision are commissioned jointly with other services to seek to maximise economies of scale.
- Delivery of further significant financial savings through a continuing coherent 'one education budget' strategy:
  - Retaining an absolute core level of statutory and regulatory provision at the centre
  - Ensuring a full recovery of the costs of any support provided to schools above this level and providing the minimum level of Council funding required to fully access the remaining available specific grants

Ceasing financial contributions to support the few remaining areas of discretionary educational provision.

## **5. STATEMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES: SOCIAL SERVICES**

The Social Services Directorate has faced significant challenges over recent years, however has achieved all of the existing Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) target savings commitments to date and maintained a high level of delivery.

COVID 19 has had an impact on the way we deliver services for children and families and an even more significant impact on our population of adults requiring care and support and their families and carers. The pandemic has also highlighted the crucial role community based early help and prevention and tackling poverty services play in supporting the most vulnerable members of our communities.

The whole directorate has become even more focussed on ensuring a joined up, strengths and assets based approach to working with and in communities with targeted support for the most vulnerable, especially important in current times seeing increased cost of living pressures.

Future pressures on Social Care funding is expected, with increasing demand and service costs in relation to increased inflation, and the challenge ahead to transform services to become more sustainable and meet future need and demand in the most effective and efficient way.

The proposed settlement should assist in meeting the additional pressures such as increased costs of externally commissioned care in line with inflation and a commitment to achieving the Real Living Wage, as well as embarking on a transformation and investment in some front line services positively impacting those needing care and support and our communities.

The main areas of priority are:

- Doing what matters to make things better for children, young people, and families
- Maintain the current Safe LAC Reduction Strategy for children and young people
- Continue our investment in preventative services to reduce the number of looked after children and achieve the planned savings and service improvements
- Taking into account changes necessary to mitigate the impact that COVID-19 has had on the well-being of vulnerable children, families and staff.
- Continue to work across with regional colleagues to ensure clear and seamless pathways for those needing care and support
- Further develop the agreed optimum model for adults, by embedding the following;
  - Better prevention and early help
  - A new approach to assessment
  - Improved cost effectiveness
  - Working together better
  - Keeping people safe
- Further embed tackling poverty services and prevention approaches across the Directorate and wider Council
- Continue to ensure we maximise the use of the various grant income streams available to delivery priorities

We will ensure we maintain a focus for the coming year on prioritising improvements to services that best support individuals, families and carers in recovering from the huge impact that COVID-19 and now cost of living rises has had and is having on their lives.

The next phase of recovery into 2023/24 will have a heavy focus upon financial efficacy; the transformation programmes will support the Medium Term Financial plan savings targets for Social Services. We will monitor progress as part of governance arrangements in monthly Social Services Performance and Financial Monitoring meetings.

## **6. STATEMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES: PLACE SERVICES**

For the Place Directorate 22/23 has been a challenging year as a result of ongoing pressures arising out of COVID-19 which has resulted in increased demands on the Directorate and an impact on reduced / slow to recover income streams some of which will continue through into 23/24. However, the proposed settlement will go some way towards assist in alleviating the pressures allowing continued investment in many of its front line “place based” services positively impacting on the environment and communities the Council serves. The main areas of priority are:

- Prioritisation of key corporate objectives including the regeneration of the City Centre, delivery of the city deal and its biodiversity and climate emergency/ Net Zero objectives.
- The continued new operation of the new Digital arena, delivery of the Kingsway digital village project and facilitation of the Phase 2 city centre development with our strategic development partners
- Deliver on a range of ongoing actions arising out of the Council's recovery plan with particular focus on the economic recovery, facilitating private sector investment and tourism
- Maximise commercial opportunities and income generation for services and assets to offset income losses
- Seek opportunities for community involvement in the delivery of services and community enablement
- Invest where necessary to maintain vital services including front line delivery of environmental services
- Work within the affordability of the housing revenue account to increase the speed of delivery of the more council homes and commence pilot schemes to inform the delivery of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2 decarbonisation programme.
- Maximise the opportunities brought by modernising terms and conditions across the council
- Adequately resource the significant council wide capital programme including highways, infrastructure and new schools and respond to the current recruitment challenges to aid delivery
- Seek to deliver on the Councils' homelessness strategy
- Seek to maximise the success of grant bids maximising the beneficial use of council resources
- Grow the capacity to support local businesses and suppliers through the circular economy principles and maximise the support available for inward investment
- Working regionally with colleagues to progress delivery of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Transport Plan.

## **7. STATEMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES: CORPORATE SERVICES**

The Corporate Services Directorate will continue to deliver high quality and cost-effective core services, supporting frontline service delivery and the achievement of better outcomes for our residents, customers and visitors.

The Corporate Services Directorate supports the political and managerial leadership of the council to set the strategic direction and enable the organisation to deliver it, responding to external challenges including financial pressures and changes in the operating environment.

To be able deliver the above our focus must be to:

- Manage demand for central support services by supporting the workforce to have the right skills for the future, particularly managers
- Focus on the priorities within the functions of the corporate centre such as good governance (including corporate performance management,

transformation, digital services, human resources, organisational development, communications, engagement and customer services

- Look for opportunities for collaboration and co-production models with other organisations and partners, in order to maintain support services as efficiently as possible
- Improve the experience of our customers, including enhancing digital access channels while reducing costs where possible
- Maintain overall investment in ICT and digital transformation, on a business case basis, to support the transformation agenda, including on-line self-service, agile and mobile working, and direct service innovation.
- To continue to evolve the services as the operating environment changes to ensure we can be agile and responsive to change.
- To support the development of the council's workforce and ensure we can respond to the regionalisation agenda and maximise the opportunities it presents.

## **8. STATEMENT OF BUDGET PRIORITIES: FINANCE**

The Finance Directorate will deliver high quality and cost effective core services, supporting frontline service delivery and achieve better outcomes for our residents, customers and visitors, as well as leading on the General Power of Competence (GPOC) and commercialism agendas.

The Finance Directorate supports the political and managerial leadership of the council to set the strategic direction and enable the organisation to deliver it, responding to external challenges especially financial pressures and changes in the operating environment.

To be able deliver the above our focus must be to:

- Strategically manage the revenue and capital finances of the whole Council having due regard to the medium and longer term and the Wellbeing of Future Generations as well as the immediate and forthcoming budget cycles.
- Manage demand for financial support services by supporting the workforce to have the right skills for the future, particularly managers
- Focus on the priorities within the functions of the corporate financial centre such as financial control, financial advice, control of Council Tax and benefits, and commercial capability.
- Look for opportunities for collaboration and co-production models with other organisations and partners, in order to maintain support services as efficiently as possible

To continue to evolve the services as the operating environment changes to ensure we can be agile and responsive to change

**Part 1 – Savings Proposals**

Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
<b>Future Impact of 2023/24 Savings Proposals</b>					
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Carry Vacancy	0	-60	-60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review funding model of the Public Service Board support budget	23	23	23
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Licences saving	33	38	38
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Mobile Phone saving	9	24	24
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Supplies and Services	1	1	1
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Support and maintenance contract saving	0	40	40
Corporate Services	Director	Non-staff spend savings due to different ways of working	4	7	7
Corporate Services	Director	Reduce expenditure on senior management as part of review	50	50	50
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Additional saving post Oracle Cloud implementation	30	30	30
Education	Non-Delegated	Better targeting of Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) spending following full implementation of new model of provision	0	70	70
Education	Non-Delegated	Continuing review and rationalisation of the directorate.	25	50	50
Education	Non-Delegated	Enhance in County provision reducing out of county costs	201	371	371
Finance	Benefits	Remove vacant posts	0	93	93
Finance	CTRS	Rebase Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1,400	1,497	2,497
Place	Building Services	Additional income generation through significantly increased work programme	650	1,300	1,300
Place	Cultural Services (Foreshore income generation)	Increase fees and income targets in line with inflation	10	20	30
Place	Cultural Services (Grand Theatre) income generation	Implementation of income generation agreement within the Grand Theatre Arts Wing	75	75	75
Place	Cultural Services (Management)	Review Service Management and Directorate Budget for development work and cross support for Dylan Thomas Centre and staff	0	20	20



Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
Place	Cultural Services	Review contract agreement with National Waterfront Museum	0	100	200
Place	Cultural Services	Review the partnership agreement with Wales National Pool	200	200	200
Place	Cultural Services Partnerships and Strategy	Review budget to deliver Cultural Activity	0	20	20
Place	Highways & Transport	Apply full cost recovery principles to day markets on car parks and highways	0	0	5
Place	Highways & Transport	Energy saving from implementing LED lamps from extra investment	30	30	30
Place	Highways & Transport	Increase street works and licencing fees annually in line with inflationary levels	25	50	75
Place	Highways & Transport	Increased charges and income from Marina and Knab Rock	20	40	60
Place	Highways & Transport	Operate an Additional Parking Enforcement camera car	43	143	143
Place	Highways & Transport	Review Parking Services Team	25	25	25
Place	Housing & Public Health	5% Increase in Fees for next 4 years Cemeteries and Cremations. Fees are controlled by statute (The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977)	137	181	432
Place	Housing & Public Health	5% Increase in Fees in next 4 years Registrars. Fees are controlled by statute (Marriage Act 1949) stating the income from charges should not exceed the costs of provision.	32	66	102
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase Food Safety and Trading Standards Fees by 15%	5	7	9
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase in Fees for next 4 years Building Control (in accordance with Land Authority Building Charges Regulations 2010)	24	49	75
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase pest control fees to 15% for schools contract and general pest income	5	7	9
Place	Housing & Public Health	Review Public Health Service	6	6	6
Place	Planning	Increase Land Charges Income	5	10	15
Place	Planning	Increase Planning Fee Income	25	50	100
Place	Planning	Revise Swansea Market Rent Charges	50	100	100
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Fee income from capital projects in City Regeneration to offset revenue costs	0	0	24
Place	Planning and Regeneration	Review Nature Conservation, Regeneration, Economic Development, & Planning sections	39	89	139
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase Bulky Waste Collections charges	0	8	8
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Reallocate current Cleansing Project Teams	0	0	40

Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review Street Cleaning	0	30	30
Social Services	Adult Services	Realise saving in efficiencies through the Supported Living Framework and benefits of being located together (2.5% rather than 5% stated in contractual arrangements in light of Covid)	50	75	100
Social Services	Adult Services	Work though Complex Needs high cost placements and establish a collaborative approach with Health for funding these packages of care to achieve a reduction in the overall costs of these packages due to more efficient and effective working with health in terms of new guidance around continuing health care cases	250	500	750
Social Services	Child and Family Services	Continue to implement the new framework for the funding of childrens complex needs placements to ensure continued equitable funding of these placements with Health	50	100	150
Social Services	Child and Family Services	Supported accommodation and floating support efficiency savings following a review and recommissioning exercise	50	100	100
Social Services	Directorate	Replacing core costs of non-statutory teams with Grant money which may become available through a range of local or regional opportunities	100	150	200
<b>Total of Future Impact of 2023/24 Savings Proposals</b>			<b>3,682</b>	<b>5,785</b>	<b>7,806</b>
<b><u>New Proposals from 2024/25</u></b>					
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review and reshape comms/marketing activities across the council	0	53	53
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review and reshape health & safety across the council.	45	45	45
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review and reshape occ health arrangements across the council	0	63	63
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review and reshape policy and performance support provided to services.	0	0	60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review Civic Office, Cabinet and CMT Support	110	110	110
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review Policy and Development Support	60	60	60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review Communications Service Staffing	0	0	50
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Contracts saving	291	387	387
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	No renewal of RecordPoint Licences Contract	48	48	48

Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Reduction in workforce, exact post(s) not yet identified	0	0	48
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Review Customer Services	103	192	229
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Review Digital Project Management Team	107	107	107
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Review Oracle Support Staffing	0	0	62
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Training Budget	0	32	32
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Reduce facility time by 10% in line with wider Council workforce contraction	30	30	30
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Reduction in workforce to meet previous year's undelivered savings, exact posts not yet identified	100	190	190
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Reshape Service Centre through digitisation and staff restructure to remove 6 posts (from a total c100)	70	164	262
Corporate Services	Legal Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Review Legal Services	0	96	289
Education	Non-Delegated	ALN Transport - review of spread and nature of STF provision / review of assessment / processes to better promote independent travel and integrate provision with Social Services (unless savings are taken corporately and base budget reduced)	100	100	100
Place	Cultural Services	Reduce Library Service 'footprint' through providing accommodation and shared services via SitC - work needed to assess costs to other services versus reduced costs to the Library service	400	400	400
Place	Cultural Services (Community Development)	Reduce service team and asset transfer community buildings; removing support for all except absolute minimum regulatory matters	0	0	150
Place	Cultural Services (Leisure)	Resume 'bid' payment reductions for Freedom Leisure	300	300	300
Place	Cultural Services (Libraries)	Remove book service to care homes - home delivery service	0	67	67
Place	Cultural Services (Libraries)	To be read with existing saving. Reduce the Library staffing budget to reflect current staff turnover and fewer premises.	179	179	179

Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
Place	Cultural Services (Oystermouth)	Council wide support for Friends groups to continue, but dedicated support will be removed.	0	44	44
Place	Cultural Services (sports and health)	Reduce management of the sport and health team by reducing grant funded programmes	0	0	50
Place	Cultural Services (St Helens)	Divest the Council's interest in St Helens (saving realised in other depts) and save Cultural Services staffing/ maintenance costs	50	50	50
Place	Cultural Services Tourism Marketing and Development	Seek alternative (grant) funding for events and destination management with longer term Tourism Levy funding to be explored.	0	0	150
Place	Directorate	Review Place Management structure at Head of Service level on completion of Council JE scheme review.	60	120	120
Place	<i>Directorate</i>	<i>To assist with slippage and management of changing operational pressures in future years</i>	-336	-350	0
Place	Highways & Transport	Implement bus lane and other moving traffic offences camera enforcement at Junctions	150	150	150
Place	Highways & Transport	Increase parking charges every 2 years (current parking increases to be introduced through Cabinet report Nov 22)	100	100	200
Place	Highways & Transport	Reduce budget for transport resources	60	60	60
Place	Highways & Transport	Review School crossing patrol service	50	75	75
Place	Housing & Public Health	Food Safety - Increase in Fee Income for Animal Licensing	5	7	7
Place	Planning	Remodel/seek alternative funding for the city centre ranger service and city centre events	50	100	100
Place	Property Services	Reduction of service asset portfolio due to service reductions - savings on premises costs	0	300	300
Place	Waste	Remove city centre urinals	0	28	28
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Divert all other DIY material to Llansamlet and charge for disposal of specific materials	0	0	50
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Efficiencies/increased income in Commercial Waste Service	0	0	150
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increased Tree Services income due to 15% increase in charges to HRA, schools and third parties	0	27	27
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Reduction in Waste Plant and Equipment budgets and purchase essential via capital funding eg skips	0	0	50
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Reductions in Enforcement Teams	0	30	110

Director	Head of Service	Published Description	Saving 2024/25 £'000	Saving 2025/26 £'000	Saving 2026/27 £'000
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Retender Tir John Management Contract at end of current contract	0	80	140
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review Grounds Maintenance Workforce	0	0	75
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review of street cleansing and workforce structure	0	0	75
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review Recycling Centres	0	0	45
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review staffing at the Botanical gardens	0	0	30
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Switch from formal annual flower beds to informal low maintenance planting	0	0	45
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Wholesale reconfiguration of waste collection arrangements to maximise incentive for residents to recycle. Could include increased frequency of recycling collections, reduced frequency of black bag collections, reduced costs of containers, improved quality of recyclates.	0	400	600
Social Services	Adult Services	Savings from implementing WCCIS	50	50	50
Social Services	Adult Services	Further remodelling Adult Social Care in line with delivery of WG policy for a Healthier Wales and the rebalance policy commitment including ensuring appropriate levels of investment from Wag and the Health Board, as well as maximising usage of in house capacity	0	0	3,450
Social Services	Directorate	Prevention and redesign activities to deliver additional medium term savings linked to future reduced demand for care and support (may require drawdown of centrally held inflation contingency funds)	1,638	3,298	3,298
Social Services	Directorate	Reduce non-statutory funded provision that doesn't undermine the delivery of other saving proposals'	1,500	1,500	1,500
<b>Total of New Proposals from 2024/25</b>			<b>5,320</b>	<b>8,692</b>	<b>14,350</b>
<b>Total of ALL Service Specific Savings Proposals (Excluding Schools)</b>			<b>9,002</b>	<b>14,477</b>	<b>22,156</b>

## **Part 2 – Service Pressures and Investment**

<b><u>Director</u></b>	<b><u>Head of Service</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>2024/25 £'000</u></b>	<b><u>2025/26 £'000</u></b>	<b><u>2026/27 £'000</u></b>
Corporate Services	Legal and Democratic Services	Election System	50	50	50
Corporate Services	Legal and Democratic Services	Increase to Councillors costs due to IRPW Report	15	33	33
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	JE Regrading	3	6	9
Education	Non-Delegated	ALN (including Post 16) Transport cost pressures in excess of planning assumptions	0	70	70
Education	Non-Delegated	Catering - shortfall between universal free school meal grant and actual costs (manifesto commitment)	204	204	204
Social Services	Adults	Various Adult Services pressures including loss of income (grants), staff costs, inflationary contract costs and ongoing additional COVID-19 costs	50	100	100
Social Services	Child & Family	Various Child and Family Services pressures including loss of income (grants), staff costs, inflationary contract costs and ongoing additional COVID-19 costs	100	200	200
Social Services	Poverty and Prevention	Various Poverty and Prevention Services pressures including loss of income (grants), staff costs, inflationary contract costs and ongoing additional COVID-19 costs	0	50	50
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>716</b>

## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

### Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Accountancy

Directorate: Finance

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

## Medium Term Financial Planning 2024/25 to 2026/27

Service and financial planning continues to be undertaken against a backcloth of increasing service pressures and demand. Again this year there is the added pressure and uncertainty as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has affected short-term planning and is expected to continue impact the budget in the medium term.

The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) is an overarching strategy that:

- Covers three future years.
- Forecasts future known additional spending requirements, likely resources and potential funding shortfalls.
- Links to the Council's adopted strategy '*Swansea – Achieving Better Together*' as a means of addressing future budget shortfalls.
- Links to the Council's revised Corporate Plan, "Delivering for Swansea" and the delivery of our top 6 priorities.
- Has due regard to our duties under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

Future detailed Service planning will need to be undertaken within the financial assessments and forecasts contained within the Medium term Financial Plan.

**It is important to understand that the MTFP does not constitute a formal budget in respect of the period 2024/25 to 2026/27 and as such the indicative annual assumptions included both within the projected spending pressures detailed in Sections 2 and 3 of this report, and the potential funding detailed in Sections 4 and 5, will be subject to a full review and decision making process as part of each of the annual Revenue Budget and Council Tax setting decisions.**

Instead, the MTFP is intended to outline, in broad terms, the specific service and funding issues over the three year period and how the Council will, within its financial constraints, fund its priorities and achieve major service change and savings.

It is essential as a planning and review tool in order to assess, on an ongoing basis, base assumptions around service pressures and progress against delivery of savings.

The plan serves to highlight the trend for increasingly uncertain times ahead in terms of funding for this Council and Local Government in general, as well as the service pressures that the Council faces from rising demands and increases in demography, together with potential funding pressures arising from ambitious plans for capital development.

Importantly, it is essential that the MTFP is a 'living' document that is subject to regular review and revisions as more information becomes available and risks are updated. As such, it is anticipated that, along with close monitoring of the specific budget proposals and savings targets for 2023/24, further reports to Cabinet and Council regarding the MTFP will be made as necessary. In particular, the Mid Term Budget Statement in the autumn of 2023 will provide a key update on the financial outlook and delivery of savings.

## **GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR ALL SERVICES**

A number of principles apply to all the Council's services, regardless of the assessment of relative priorities. These are set out below.

### **Budget Principles**

The Council has adopted a number of Budget Principles that underpin the budget strategy:

<i>Everything is included</i>	<i>Increased income</i>
<i>Engagement</i>	<i>Different models of delivery</i>
<i>We will have less money</i>	<i>Supporting those at risk</i>
<i>Demonstrating efficiency</i>	<i>Evidence base</i>
<i>Cutting Red Tape</i>	<i>Sustainable outcomes/prevention</i>
<i>Full cost recovery</i>	<i>Personal Responsibility</i>

All Services must apply and be consistent with these Budget Principles.

All Services are also required to address these Principles as part of business planning and developing savings proposals.

### **Service Transformation and Efficiency**

There are expectations upon all Services in relation to transformation and efficiency, which must be met regardless of relative priority for funding:



<b>Transformation</b>	<p>All service must transform through a fundamental review of purpose, however services are commissioned, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver better outcomes</li> <li>• develop a sustainable delivery model, fit for the future</li> <li>• reduce costs and secure value for money</li> </ul>
<b>Efficiency</b>	<p>All services must continue to strive for efficiency, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce management and other overheads</li> <li>• maximise opportunities for increasing income from charges, trading and external sources</li> <li>• reduce the cost of purchasing supplies and services</li> <li>• work with others to achieve better outcomes</li> <li>• look for opportunities for residents or community groups to take or share responsibility for services</li> </ul>

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The impact will be different for each service and will be assessed as part of our IIA process.

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?**

Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement

Consultation will take place annually as part of the revenue budget annual process. The Medium Term Plan is a planning tool and not a formal budget, all parts of the Plan are subject to a full review and decision making process as part of the annual Revenue Budget decisions.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes  No If yes, please provide details below

The plan is for the whole of the Council as such all services are impacted

**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**

Yes  No If yes, please provide details below

**Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

The impact of the Medium Term Financial Plan will be fully considered as part of the engagement and consultation process undertaken each year as part of the Revenue Budget decision making process. The Plan itself is a planning tool only and doesn't constitute a formal budget.

## Outcome of Screening

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The budget reductions implicit in the 2022/23 approved budget were subject to the corporate and appropriate Integrated Impact Assessment process, which was considered as part of the overall budget process.

Where additional budget savings requirements are identified as part of the 2023/24 and MTFP budget processes they will be subject to the integrated impact assessment process (including relevant consultation and engagement) as part of the budget considerations for those financial years.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the '**Integrated Assessment Implications**' section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: Sarah Willis</b>
<b>Job title: Group Accountant – Corporate and Strategy</b>
<b>Date: 01/02/2023</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Ben Smith</b>
<b>Position: Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer</b>
<b>Date: 01/02/2023</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)



Dear Colleague,

**Using the Well-being of Future Generations Act in setting budgets and responding to the cost of living crisis**

I am writing to you in relation to the ongoing cost of living crisis here in Wales. I recognise how difficult the general financial situation is for us as a country and globally and I recognise that many of you will have to make very difficult decisions to meet increased demands on your services in these extraordinary circumstances.

As you progress with setting your budgets for the next financial year, I wanted to emphasise the need to use the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("the Act") to support your decision making.

The Act applies to your organisation and all Public Services Boards in Wales. Financial planning is one of the corporate areas identified within the statutory guidance of the Act, which states:

"Applying the five ways of working to your financial planning will address the tendency for short-term priorities and administrative process to overtake long-term interests. It is expected that financial planning will take account of the five ways of working within the sustainable development principle, particularly in terms of delivering for the long-term and facilitating preventative actions."

I recognise that public bodies are facing tighter budgets, and want to be clear that the advice I am setting out in this letter applies to your decisions around how best to make cost savings, as well as your allocation of any discretionary spending to address the cost-of-living crisis.

Alleviating some of the impact of the current crisis and any potential further cost pressures on households will undoubtedly be a priority consideration in your next budget. I know that you will want to ensure that any future expenditure is taken forward in line with the progressive long-term policy approach we have established in Wales through the Act.

The Act requires that you carry out sustainable development, seek to contribute to the national well-being goals, take every reasonable step to meet your well-being objectives and act in accordance with the sustainable development principle. In so doing, it is important to consider whether your budget addresses current needs, such as those identified in your local Public Services Boards' 2022 Well-being Assessments, while also addressing known longer-term trends including climate change,

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Future Generations Commissioner for Wales  
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depleting natural resources and an ageing population. The Act requires that you acknowledge these trends and act now in a way that embodies preventative and long-term thinking.

In setting your budget in line with the Act, I would expect to see your budget decision-making reflecting the well-being objectives that you have set for your organisation. You should consider how the budget helps alleviate the immediate burden on those on the lowest incomes, hardest hit by the cost-of-living crisis. Longer term, consider how it could help to reduce the impact of any future cost of living crisis.

It is also important to consider carefully any reduction in funding to services that are disproportionately relied upon by those in the highest need. The type of issues that have been brought to my attention include cuts to leisure services, reducing access to physical activity for those in deprived communities, and measures such as reducing the temperature in swimming pools to make cost savings, which will disproportionately exclude the young and the elderly.

While there are no simple solutions to the cost-of-living crisis, there are steps that can be taken to ease the burden on households. There are also links between action to address the climate and nature crises and actions to address the cost-of-living crisis. These include resourcing interventions on things like local food, energy efficiency and transport where acting now can have an impact in both the immediate and longer term. A more joined-up and future focused approach is key to preventing problems and ensuring you take all reasonable steps to meet the well-being objectives you have set.

It is important to consider whether, on balance, your overall budget delivers across the four pillars of well-being (economic, environmental, social and cultural) with equal prominence. The involvement of local citizens is key to making a judgement on this. The Act details the ways in which you must collaborate with people, communities and other public bodies.

Such involvement can and must play its part in reducing systemic inequalities. In this context, extra effort is required to include the voices of those who may be less often heard, but most impacted, by the crisis for example disabled people, racialised people and those who are already the most economically deprived.

As I have said in previous correspondence, we do not want the Act to become a “tick-box exercise”. It needs to be applied in everything you do as a Public Body or Public Services Board. Agreeing your budget is one of the most important decisions that you will make each year.

My feedback on the PSB well-being assessments and emerging feedback on draft PSB well-being objectives, as well as the key findings and recommendations within the Future Generations Report 2020, outline additional opportunities that should be considered and help meet your duties under the Act.

I trust that you find this reminder and the information in this letter helpful.

Yours faithfully,



Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

# Agenda Item 9.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### Revenue Budget 2023/24

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report proposes a Revenue Budget and Council Tax Levy for 2023/24.
<b>Policy framework:</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan and Budget Strategy
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Members, Legal, Access to Services & Corporate Management Team
<b>Recommendations:</b>	It is recommended that:  1) Council approves a Revenue Budget for 2023/24 as detailed in Appendix A.  2) Council Approves a Budget Requirement and Council Tax Levy for 2023/24 as detailed in Section 9 of this report.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

## 1. Introduction and Background

### 1.1. This report details:

- Financial monitoring 2022/23
- The Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24
- Budget Forecast 2023/24
- Specific Savings Proposals
- Outcome of Budget Consultation
- Staffing Implications
- Reserves and Contingency Fund requirements
- The Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2023/24
- Summary of funding proposals
- Risks and uncertainties

- 1.2. The financial assessment in relation to 2024/25 – 2026/27 is contained in the **Medium Term Financial Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27** elsewhere on this agenda.
- 1.3. This report builds upon and needs to be read in conjunction with :
- The budget strategy agreed by Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 – **‘Sustainable Swansea: Fit for the Future’**.
  - The report to Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – **‘Sustainable Swansea: Fit for the Future: Delivery Programme’**.
  - The update report on **Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future** as approved by Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015.
  - The report to Cabinet on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020 – **‘From Recovery to Transformation’** detailing the “Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework 2022 – 2026”
  - The report to Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 – ‘Transformation Goals and Strategy’ detailing the Council’s transformation strategy, vision and goals for 2022 – 2027.
  - The report to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 – **Budget Proposals 2023/24 – 2026/27** setting out the Council’s proposals for consultation.
- 1.4. The report sets out the latest budget estimates. Cabinet has considered any comments and feedback received as a result of the budget consultation. The report also includes an Integrated Impact Assessment statement so that Council can be aware of the key issues before finalising budget proposals.
- 1.5. 2021/22 marked the first full year of required full compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code. The code was taken into consideration during the 2021 Senior Management Review and the resulting restructure ensuring compliance with the code has been in place for just over a year.
- 1.6. **Whilst rightly emphasising what is proposed being removed in savings for transparency, at just under £25 million, it must equally be borne in mind that approximately £60 million is being added, making a net £35 million being added. Net service budgets are increasing even though substantial one off funding is being removed.**

## **2. Financial Monitoring 2022/23**

- 2.1. Cabinet considered a report on the estimated Revenue Outturn for 2022/23 at its meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023. It was projected that the Council will outturn at an underlying directorate overspend position of £8.995m, which is an improved position compared to the forecast overspend at quarter 2.
- 2.2. The overspend is primarily in respect of the impact of the recently approved 2022/23 pay award. There is only a 3% pay award budgeted for so there will be in excess of £12 million additional payroll costs that are unfunded by the UK/Welsh Governments. There is also a residual element of COVID-19 costs currently reflected in the overspend.



- 2.3. In addition there is likely to be a shortfall on Council Tax collection, forecast at £2m. This will add to the forecast service overspend of £8.995m. There is no indication of repeats of the past two years support, so this is likely to crystallise in full for 2022/23 and steps have already been taken by Council to rectify the shortfall in collection by reducing the assumed tax base in future.
- 2.4. The contingency fund will be used to fund a list of approved items, leaving a balance of £5.457m to offset service overspending on the pay award. In addition to this, non-service items such as the inflation provision will be released to mitigate the overspend.
- 2.5. If the COVID-19 losses are covered by the Welsh Government in line with that currently forecast then there is likely to be an overall underspend for the Council in the region of at least £1.3m, though it is likely to increase. Although shown as an effective underspend it is more accurately a lower than expected draw from one off contingency sums and members will have the opportunity to consider in due course how to respond to that indicative figure.
- 2.6. Any underspends on capital charges (at least a further £8 million) will be transferred to the capital equalisation reserve, a strategy previously agreed by Council, to meet future expected liabilities.

### **3. The Local Government Finance Settlement 2022/23**

- 3.1. The Minister for Housing and Local Government announced the provisional Revenue and Capital Settlement for 2022/23 on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and the final settlement is expected, subject to confirmation, to be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.
- 3.2. At the time of writing this report the Welsh Government had not announced the final settlement, however the Minister for Finance and Local Government stated in the provisional settlement that there was no intention to make significant changes to either the methodology or the data underpinning the settlement. There will be a change to fire service funding to reflect some aspects of specific grant changes and one transfer (this will manifest as an increase in block grant and an increase in the fire levy but the two are not likely to match exactly). **As such any changes should only be minor and capable of being smoothed out by adjustments to the Contingency Fund.** Any other changes such as any new responsibilities transferred into the Revenue Support Grant will simply be passported to Services as usual. **If any more material announcements are made over elements regarding taxation policy (business rates, council tax, VAT, employers taxes etc.) or expectations for, or funding for helping with council tax levels, or indeed overall funding support to councils, this may need to be revisited at Council, which will be operationally and procedurally difficult given likely March timings of both Welsh Government and UK Government final budgets.**
- 3.3. For the purposes of this report there is assumed to be no change to the provisional settlement figure, bar an estimated fire service grant transfer.

- 3.4. In respect of Schools and Social Services, although the provisional settlement does make it clear that the cost pressures in social care and schools are definitively recognised by the Welsh Government, there is no formal protection or funding guarantee within the settlement so any decision over funding is a local one to be made by Cabinet and ultimately by Council, having any due regard to any budget consultation responses received.
- 3.5. In revising the Medium Term Financial Plan and setting the Budget for 2023/24, it is essential that the Council adheres to the objectives in *Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy 2023 - 2027*. The Council made clear through *Sustainable Swansea* that the need to transform services, reduce or divert demand through prevention and to look for alternative models of delivery, including community action, is required for our future sustainability and to improve outcomes for citizens and this needs to be reinforced and strengthened under the new Transformation Strategy.
- 3.6. **The longer term financial pressures and level of risk that we continue to face make the need to implement these changes ever more urgent. The increase in Aggregate External Finance for next year should be seen as a further opportunity to maintain investment in the Council’s priorities and preventative action in particular, and embracing wider scale transformational change, as part of the recovery plan, not to slow down the pace of change or the level of required savings in the medium term.**

#### 4. Budget Forecast 2023/24

##### *Overview*

- 4.1. The budget proposals for 2023/24 as submitted for consultation on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 highlighted pressures of £60.666m, resulting in a savings requirement of £25.244m once the provisional increase on Welsh Government Aggregate External Finance (AEF) of £31.182m was taken into account, together with estimated Council Tax rises of £4.240m.
- 4.2. The announcement of the final settlement will mean that the overall funding deficit forecast for 2023/24 will inevitably, but hopefully marginally, change.
- 4.3. In addition, the opportunity has arisen to review all aspects of the budget pressures and risks so far identified with a view to updating the forecast using the latest up to date assumptions.
- 4.4. The options for funding the deficit that is identified remain as:
- Savings on current service net expenditure (through a combination of expenditure reduction and additional income generation)
  - Increases in Council Tax levels (but weighing need for tax revenue sustainability with affordability for residents)
  - Use of Reserves and Balances more generally (not advised, but this advice explicitly does not include the very firm advice to make use of the remaining balance on the Economic Recovery Fund over 2 years to

stabilise energy price rises and avoid otherwise potentially unnecessary reductions to base service budgets).

### **Forecast Funding Requirement 2023/24**

- 4.5. The revised funding requirement previously identified in paragraph 4.1 above can now be updated and summarised in Table 1(a) below.
- 4.6. The items highlighted in **bold italic** in the table have changed since the budget proposals report in December 2022. Those shaded are changes recommended by Cabinet. These are discussed later in the report, and have resulted in a slight change to the Net Funding Requirement.

**Table 1(a) – Projected Pressures 2023/24**

	<b>Budget 2023/24 £'000</b>
Future cost of pay award	
- LG Staff	14,908
- Teachers	7,973
Impact of flat rate pay award 2022/23	
- LG Staff	7,720
- Teachers	3,700
National Living Wage – pay bill	1,200
National Living Wage – contracts	2,600
Increase in Pension Costs	0
<b>Cumulative contract inflation</b>	<b>1,350</b>
Energy Price Inflation	15,000
Temporary use of Recovery Fund to partially cover Energy Inflation	-9,100
Capital charges – CRMP	1,556
<b>Contingency</b>	<b>2,335</b>
Rebase ICT Cloud costs	500
Demographic & Service pressures	3,000
<b>Mid and West Wales Fire Authority Levy (independently decided by the Fire Authority)</b>	<b>2,430</b>
<b>Other Levies (Swansea Bay Port Health Authority and The Corporate Joint Committee)</b>	<b>13</b>
Council Tax Support Scheme	1,500
MTFP Service pressures accepted	1,925
<b>New service pressures accepted</b>	<b>895</b>
Passed through AEF to Services	0
Social Care extra money for Adult Services	2,500
<b>Total Funding Requirement</b>	<b>62,005</b>
<b>Savings Requirement</b>	<b>-24,839</b>
<b>Net Funding Requirement</b>	<b>37,166</b>
<b>Aggregate External Finance increase</b>	<b>30,082</b>

Aggregate External Finance increase (CRMP)	1,556
<b>Council Tax increase (including tax base changes)</b>	<b>5,528</b>
<b>Total Resource Investment</b>	<b>37,166</b>

### ***Inflation***

- 4.7. The 2022/23 Revenue Budget provided a corporate provision of £4.130m for general inflation (£3.130m) and the cost of the Apprenticeship Levy (£1m). It is expected that the full £1m will be required for the Apprenticeship Levy, the remainder of the provision will be used retained to contribute to the service overspend, if necessary.

Given current UK inflationary levels and forecasts, particularly around energy price increases, there is a strong case for increasing the corporate (General) provision for inflation in 2023/24. As such, as well as providing an additional sum of £1.2m compared to the December 2022 report to Cabinet, a fund of £15m has been created to ease the impact of energy prices during 2023/24. Giving full consideration to the impact upon, and affordability of, council tax levels this provision has been funded in the short term from temporary resources (earmarked reserves), this is to smooth the impact over the short term peak whilst allowing for a gradual inclusion in base funding. It is the case, however, that the Council is nonetheless likely to experience significant ongoing cost pressures in specific areas as detailed in Table 1 (b) below and these have already been provided for as follows

**Table 1 (b) – Potential Service Inflationary and Cost Pressures**

	<b>£'000</b>
Increase to central inflation provision	16,200
Increased contract costs due to rise in National Minimum Wage levels (already in services)	2,600
Increased contract costs	1,350

- 4.8. In the November 2015 Autumn Statement, the Chancellor first announced significant increases in the National Minimum wage. Whilst the actual increases will vary year to year there will be continued pressures. The rise anticipated for 2023/24 could affect direct employee costs. There is some uncertainty around the impact as the 2023/24 pay award is as yet unknown, however the latest estimate has been included above. It will impact directly on wage costs of external contractors particularly in respect of contracted services within Social Services. It should also be noted that the local government finance settlement this year places an expectation on local government to move to become an always better than living wage employer in own right and with targeted parts of contracted social care in the first instance. The pay policy was considered at Council in February and those likely policy decisions on future national minimum pay levels to come, relative to general inflationary pay increases provided for, are already fully afforded within the overall budget envelope proposed. For the avoidance of doubt the pay policy proposals and decision to come will not likely need to be otherwise constrained by the budgetary position provided for.

Irrespective of increases in minimum wage, there is likely to be pressure from contracted areas in both Social Services care generally and Transport Services for elements of cost increases. These will need to be funded from the inflation provision allocated to both services as the need arises.

- 4.9. In his Autumn Statement presented to Parliament in November 2022, the Chancellor of the Exchequer made no reference to public sector pay and given the high levels of general inflation it can reasonably be expected that pay rises can continue to be in line with the award this year (i.e. 7% average)
- 4.10. The Apprenticeship Levy is still held centrally on the general provision for inflation line as it is currently a cost that is in effect a corporate tax. This makes the total central provision for inflation just over £20m, although £1m of this is already fully committed for that levy and £15m is the new fund for energy price increases. The provision has been increased this year because of the current economic uncertainty surrounding inflationary levels.
- 4.11. As detailed below, it is assumed that any provision for increases in School pay budgets will be met directly from Schools' delegated budgets.

#### ***Schools Prioritisation***

- 4.12. It remains the case that the forward financial plans for the Council will continue to show year on year savings requirements which are likely to be significant and sustained. Given the scale of savings required, it is inevitable that it will be impossible to exempt schools' budgets fully from longer term real terms cuts.
- 4.13. Budget movements can be viewed in two ways:
- Cash increases or reductions in levels of funding provided to Schools
  - Real terms changes in Schools funding, taking into account known spending needs.
- 4.14. For 2023/24 there continues to be no Ministerial funding commitment to schools, although the provisional settlement does make it clear that the cost pressures in schools are specifically recognised by the Welsh Government and were a material factor in the overall settlement. It is intended to provide funding for various service pressures as a local priority for Cabinet.
- 4.15. The net result of these proposals is an increase in the underlying base budget cash settlement to Schools of just over £10m (5.9%) for 2023/24, (including anticipated Pupil Development Grant and Post 16 funding changes which come separately from Welsh Government), which is only slightly less favourable than the 8.2% increase in this Council's funding from Welsh Government. It must be remembered that once council tax levels are set by Council the overall council funding envelope will be a weighted average of the two increases and likely materially lower than the headline grant increase alone.

- 4.16. This year the headline figures across Wales in respect of Pupil Development Grant has marginally increased and the Post-16 funding has remained the same, so a slightly improved position. However the Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant has decreased, which may have an effect on Swansea Schools when allocated.
- 4.17. Table 1 (c) below sets out the effective impact of the core funding increase against expected funding pressures for Schools.

**Table 1 (c) – Impact on Schools Delegated Budgets**

Item	£'000	£'000
<b>Cash position</b>		
<b>Gross core delegated base budget 2022/23</b>		<b>179,046</b>
Increase for Pay Award - all staff	7,973	
Increase for 2022/23 Pay Award – all staff	3,700	
Increased demographics and other pressures	1,200	
Increased budget delegation	681	
Total Pressures added		13,554
Schools contribution to reduced resources		-2,930
<b>Core delegated base budget 2023/24</b>		<b>189,670</b>
		+5.9%

The above cash increase substantially covers most, but not all, of the known pressures for Schools, with energy costs underpinned temporarily centrally on top of this direct support, and continues to support the enhancement of mainstream provision within schools as part of the existing education budget strategy.

There are no further delegated funding changes expected for 2023/24 and so the total school cost centre budgets set out in Appendix H have increased by £10.624m for 2023/24 or 5.9% in respect of schools core funding.

It remains the case, however, that substantial elements of Schools Funding (c£17m) are now being delivered via specific Grant (Pupil Development Grant and Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant) which results in a substantial annual risk to overall School's funding which is not in the control of this Council.

#### **Social Care Protection**

- 4.18. Similarly to Schools, the Welsh Government overall Revenue Settlement for 2023/24 no longer includes a protection or prioritisation of funding for social care. Although the settlement does make it clear that elements of Social Care pressures (pay) are recognised in the settlement.

Overall the cash budget proposed for social services (including poverty & prevention) increases by around 8% or £11.6m.

### **Capital Financing Charges**

- 4.19. There is a base line increase of £1.6m compared to the 2022/23 approved budget reflecting the additional funding agreed with the Welsh Government from the Coastal Risk Management Programme for Mumbles seawall.
- 4.20. In line with the Treasury Management Strategy, a significant element of the Capital Financing Requirement has been met by the allocation of internal funds (internal borrowing). This is highly dependent on cash-flows of the Council and minimises capital costs to the Council whilst appraising the opportunities to externalise funding. That approach was vindicated by the historically low cost borrowing secured by the S151 Officer in 2018/19 and 2021/22, which represents the cheapest borrowing ever secured by the Authority. In hindsight this strategy was well timed noting the effect of the post COVID-19 inflationary environment, we now find ourselves in with financing costs more than doubling in the interim.
- 4.21. The current market and inflationary environment, makes funding the capital programme even more challenging, alongside the more stringent PWLB guidance outlining what PWLB can and cannot be used for. The most economically / operationally advantageous form of borrowing shall be determined by the Section 151 Officer as cashflow and opportunities dictate, and could also include the following alternative sources of capital:
- Local authorities
  - Financial institutions
  - Municipal Bonds Agency

Furthermore the authority has outlined a range of ambitious and challenging investment plans and opportunities in the shape of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B programme, the continuing City Region Deal, City Centre redevelopment, and new housing plans, which are set out in the report on Capital elsewhere on this agenda.

- 4.22. Whilst the short term costs have been built into annual budgets to date, and forecast general fund capital borrowing requirements have been de-risked as outlined above with PWLB borrowing, there remains a longer term requirement to anticipate additional capital financing costs because elements of the Band B schools programme will not be funded by traditional capital borrowing but through the Mutual Investment Model (revenue funding). The authority continues to materially benefit from the substantial increases in current and medium term specific capital grant funding from the Welsh Government and as a direct result of the change to MRP policy which was approved by Council in December 2018.
- 4.23. The S151 officer has carefully considered the impact of the many variables and unknowns inherent in the funding of the presented capital programme (e.g. Brexit impact, volatility of markets, inflation, timing of City deal funding, variability of direct capital grant funding, impact of MRP review on equalising principal repayments in later years) and has sought to mitigate the impact of the funding of the capital programme on the revenue account with the

establishment of the capital equalisation reserve. The utilisation of the reserve recognises the future obligations arising out of the committed capital programme whilst prudently mitigating that impact on the revenue account by adopting professional judgement in reserving appropriately at this time in the capital equalisation reserve, which has due regard to the Well-being of Future Generations.

#### ***Fire Authority Levy and Port Health Authority Levy***

- 4.24. Since the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Cabinet report we have been notified of the overall increase in the Fire Authority Levy. The final figure reflects an overall average 16.54% increase in the levy. This is the same figure as estimated in the report to Cabinet. The levy for 2023/24 will be £17.122m.
- 4.25. There has been a minor increase in the Swansea Bay Port Health Authority Levy of 1.5%, the levy for 2023/24 has been set at £88,713 for Swansea.
- 4.26. There has also been a minor reduction to the increase in the relatively new Corporate Joint Committee levy estimated in the February Cabinet report. The increase will now be 6% and the levy for 2023/24 has been set at £212,431 for Swansea.

#### ***Council Tax Reduction Scheme***

- 4.27. The Authority received a baseline adjustment to its Revenue Support Grant of £18.883m for 2014/15 which has been notionally included as part of all future settlements. The effect of this is that any future increases in Council tax levels would have to be discounted by any potential increases in Council Tax Support costs. Where appropriate the yield will also have to take account of any increase in Council Tax Support Costs arising from increases in the Council Tax applied by the South Wales Police Commissioner.

The effects of funding additional Council tax support have been taken into account when calculating the funding in respect of the overall budget shortfall highlighted in Table 1(a) in paragraph 4.6 of this report. This has been set at £1.5m for 2023/24.

#### ***Discretionary Rate Relief***

- 4.28. The Authority is responsible for funding an element of any discretionary rate relief awarded to local businesses. No increase to this budget has been anticipated for 2023/24.

#### ***Service Pressures and Additional Investment***

- 4.29. It can be seen from Table 1(a) above that there is a continued investment in pressures identified and approved as part of the budget process last year. In addition to this there have been a number of new pressures and new investment opportunities identified as part of this year's budget process. The funding of these items has been possible partly through a better than expected settlement from the Welsh Government and partly through efficiencies (savings) made elsewhere within the Authority. Since the December 2022 report these pressures have been revised and the final list is shown in part 2 of Appendix D.



## 5. Specific Savings Proposals: Update

- 5.1. As a strategy for determining its budget proposals, the Authority has, since 2013, used the principles embedded within ‘*Sustainable Swansea: Fit for the Future*’ as a means of setting Council priorities, transforming services and addressing current and future deficits.

Since October 2020, when Cabinet approved the new “From Recovery to Transformation” report detailing the “Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework 2022 – 2026”, the Authority has used this strategy to inform and shape the budget process, ensuring the budget assists the strategic aims and outcomes of the framework. It is essential that the recovery programme and its associated delivery and governance is now delivered rapidly to ensure savings plan in train and expected to be needed in the future are more fully assured.

- 5.2. The strategy as adopted underpinned the decision taken at the Council’s Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 to recommend specific savings proposals totalling £25.244m in 2023/24 for consultation. Cabinet on 16<sup>th</sup> February has now considered what changes to make to these proposals in light of the outcome of the consultation, and the latest forecasts, and these are set out in paragraph 6.5.
- 5.3. Since the February report the overall savings requirement has remained the same, as detailed in Table 1 (a) above, still totalling some £24.839m. Consequently no permanent changes to the service specific savings have been made, as summarised below. These are detailed in Appendix D.

**Table 2 – Summary of Savings Proposals**

<b>Savings</b>	<b>2023/24 £'000</b>
Service specific savings as at 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2023 (As per Appendix D)	21,909
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>21,909</b>
Schools*	2,930
<b>Total</b>	<b>24,839</b>

\*Schools savings and pressures fall entirely to the delegated budgets and are shown separately as these are decisions for schools to take

- 5.4. Details around the currently assumed proposals for Council Tax levels are shown in Section 9 of this report.
- 5.5. Details around use of the Council’s Reserves, contingency and inflation provisions are shown in Section 8 of this report.

## 6. Outcome of Budget Consultation Process

### Budget Consultation Results

- 6.1. The annual budget consultation ran from 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. A summary of the consultation results is attached at Appendix E.
- 6.2. The IIA process has been running continually through the budget process. The IIA report is attached as Appendix F. Cabinet will be kept updated on any potential issues that may arise as part of the budget implementation process.
- 6.3. Cabinet and Council will need to consider the response to consultation and the IIA report and demonstrate how we are taking account of the feedback.
- 6.4. Finally, Council is asked to note that, as part of the budget consultation process an account of the consultation responses will be placed on the Council's website

### Changes Proposed to the Budget in this Report

- 6.5. Following consultation, and as a result of the latest updates to forecasts, Cabinet decided to make a number of changes to the recommended budget at that stage. Council will now need to consider whether it is minded to make any further changes to the final proposals for the 2023/24 budget. The changes agreed by Cabinet are detailed in the table below:

Description	2023/24 £'000
Minor amendment to Corporate Joint Committee Levy	-3
Minor amendment to Community Council precepts following a substitution. (An increase to the precept (£2,000) with a corresponding increase to Council Tax, a net nil)	0
Amendment to Council Tax Reduction Scheme following proposed increase to Council Tax	250
Addition to Contingency Fund	1,095
Proposal to increase Council Tax from 4.95% to 5.95%	-1,342
Total Changes	0

- 6.6 In addition Cabinet agreed to recommend further changes to its own proposals and a temporarily defer £901,000 of saving proposals for one year only and these are to be funded one off in 2023/24 only from contingency. These changes are highlighted in Appendix D. in light of the broad scale, late timing and one off nature, base budgets have not been reduced but will be offset in year by the equivalent amount from contingency before reverting to

being required in full, unless and until Cabinet and Council make future decisions when setting the 2024/25 budget.

## 7. Staffing Implications

### **Background**

- 7.1. The Cabinet Report of 16<sup>th</sup> February 2023 set out the latest estimate (**work on this is continuing and the number is likely to change**) of the impact of the current proposals on total staffing numbers for 2023/24, these have been updated in **Table 3** (shown as Full Time Equivalents (FTEs))

**Table 3 – Potential Impact of Savings Proposals on FTEs 2023/24**

<b>Potential Headcount Reduction (likely vacant posts or volunteers for ER/VR)</b>	<b>Headcount Number</b>
Finance	10
Corporate Services	22
Place	17
Education (excluding schools)	1
Social Services	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Indicative schools figure</b>	<b>FTEs</b>
Schools	TBC

- 7.2. The Council will remain committed to continue to work closely with Trade Unions to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies in the future.
- 7.3. Trade Unions will be consulted on budgetary proposals and the S188 letter was issued on 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Consultation formally commenced on 10<sup>th</sup> January and will last for a minimum of 30 days.
- 7.4. It should be noted that consultation will be undertaken on a rolling basis outside the normal budget cycle, as the outcomes from commissioning and other reviews are presented to Cabinet. Consequently, in some Service Areas, it was not possible at the time of the formal meetings with the Trade Unions to give details of the precise impact on staff and the figures quoted were, therefore, overall estimates. Future meetings with Trade Unions will be used to provide more detail when this becomes available as future options are agreed.
- 7.5. A reduction in posts in 2023/24 will be unavoidable, given that the Council spends just over 50% of its overall budget on employees (significantly more in some Service Areas) and the national pay award remains unknown whilst inflation is also very high and will have to be funded from the Council's own resources.

7.6. As achieved and evidenced in previous years, and continuing the Council's current policy, every effort will be made to minimise compulsory redundancies. Management action includes:

- *Tight management of vacancies so that we manage the deletion of posts via natural wastage over time*
- *The use of fixed term appointments where a post needs to be covered*
- *Stopping the use of agency staff unless a clear business case can be made*
- *Redeployment and retraining wherever possible*
- *Further encouragement of staff to consider ER/VR options, including bumped redundancies*
- *Encouraging staff to work flexibly e.g. reduce hours or job share*
- *Flexible retirement*

7.7. The groups of staff likely to be most at risk (no options can be ruled out at this stage) are those affected by service savings in Corporate Services, Finance and Place.

### **Issues**

7.8. Consultation will take place with the Trade Unions as required and any issues raised will be considered.

Based on current information it is anticipated that there will be some changes to the staffing figures as a result of:

- ERVR applications
- Not filling vacant posts
- Flexible Working requests, i.e. reduced hours
- Flexible Retirement
- Redeployment
- Bumped redundancies
- Residual very limited risk of compulsory redundancies but work to mitigate this to the absolute minimum continues

These figures will be updated on an ongoing basis.

7.9. HR & OD are constantly working with redeployees to secure them alternative positions. Employees at risk, i.e. those who have not been served notice, can also be considered for redeployment, where applicable.

In addition, all posts are placed on the list of posts for employees at risk in the first instance. Director and CMT approval is required in order for the posts to be advertised either on the Vacancy Bulletin or externally.

### **Consultation Period and Notice Periods**

7.10. In the event of organisational change that impacts on employees, the formal consultation period will last for a minimum of 30 days; although formal consultation meetings with staff and Trade Unions will continue as and when necessary.

Assuming that Council approves the budget, it will be after this date that the workforce implications of the budget can be implemented.

After any redundancy selection process has been completed, displaced staff will then be served with their contractual notice that could range from a 4 week period up to 12 weeks, which depends on the employee's length of service. As indicated above there is no expectation at this stage that the budget in itself should cause any material compulsory redundancies.

## **8. Reserves and Contingency Fund Requirement**

### ***Background***

- 8.1. It is a requirement of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 that authorities have regard to the level of reserves when calculating their Budget Requirement. Whilst there is no prescribed statutory minimum level of reserves, account should be taken of the strategic, operational and financial risks facing the Council.
- 8.2. In assessing the adequacy of reserves account needs to be taken of the following general factors:
  - treatment of inflation and interest rates
  - level and timing of capital receipts
  - treatment of demand led pressures
  - expected performance against challenging budget requirements
  - treatment of planned efficiency savings / productivity gains
  - financial risks inherent in major capital developments and funding
  - the availability of reserves, government grants and other funds
  - general financial climate to which the authority is subject
- 8.3. The Section 151 Officer continues, as set out below, to view General Reserves as already being at the absolute minimum safe level. Furthermore as the revenue budget continues to grow, the relative value and thus acceptability to the Section 151 Officer of the already low absolute level of General Reserves diminishes further, albeit mitigated to some extent by the growth in temporary earmarked reserves. Any consideration on use of reserves to fund the 2023/24 Revenue Budget is dependent on the level of confidence in predicting 2022/23 Revenue Outturn and the overall draw from those reserves. At present it remains the case therefore that there should ordinarily be no planned use of general reserves for any future budgets and indeed an expectation of the Section 151 Officer that longer term, General Reserves will need to be bolstered to maintain their relative value when compared to the overall growth in budgets and risks and uncertainties faced.

Setting the level of reserves is just one of several related decisions in the formulation of the Medium Term Financial Strategy i.e. it is more than a short term decision.

- 8.4. In considering reserve levels Members should have specific regard to:-
- The report of the Section 151 Officer to Council on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 'Review of Revenue Reserves'
  - The guidance issued by Welsh Government and circulated to all Members advising on methods that might be employed when reviewing the overall reserves of the Council.

### ***General Reserves***

- 8.5. The General Reserve amounted to £10.000m at 1st April 2022.
- 8.6. The Revenue Budget for 2022/23 approved by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 assumed no transfer from General Reserves and there is no movement in the General Reserve currently expected during 2022/23, although any final determination on the use of reserves will depend on the outturn position for 2022/23.
- 8.7. In the opinion of the S151 Officer the level of the General Reserve is currently at the very minimum recommended level and as such there is no assumed transfer from the reserve to support the 2023/24 budget.

Therefore the level of General Fund balances estimated at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 would be £10.000m.

**Longer term the Section 151 Officer expects there to be a need to increase General Reserves to maintain their relative and proportionate value as revenue budgets and risks and uncertainties grow significantly.**

### ***Contingency Fund***

- 8.8. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial monitoring report details several forecast uses of the Contingency Fund in 2022/23. At this time, it is anticipated that the original £3.731m 2022/23 budgeted contribution, plus the additional £4.554m carried forward from 2021/22, will be expended and/or used to fund the Council's final outturn position, mainly funding the 2022/23 additional pay award. Given the overall position as forecast in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter budget monitoring report for 2022/23 considered elsewhere on this agenda, the forecast Fund balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 is subject to final confirmation on outturn, but is currently expected to be nil.
- 8.9. In assessing the value of the Contingency Fund requirement in 2023/24, the following potential requirements are relevant:
- The risks and issues detailed in Section 11 below.
  - The need to provide a substantial potential source of finance for repeated potential overspending in services given past performance, bearing in mind the Council has now likely exhausted all other Earmarked Reserves.
  - The continuing uncertainty for Public Finances as set out in the Cabinet report on 22<sup>nd</sup> December and summarised in the MTFP report elsewhere on the agenda.

- The expectation that any emerging additional inflationary pressures beyond the large already budgeted items (National Living Wage, pay awards and energy costs) will be a call on the fund in year.
- 8.10. Bearing the above in mind, together with the proposals in respect of funding current year service pressures within the 2023/24 base budget, and the reduced risk of repeating overspending from 2022/23, it is now recommended that the contribution to the base budget Contingency Fund in respect of 2023/24 is increased by £2.335m to £6.066m depending upon any further budget decisions Cabinet is also minded to recommend. Again this is considered the absolute minimum range necessary to be maintained in light of the likely risks and issues facing this Council.
- 8.11. It should however be noted that no COVID-19 grants awarded during 2022/23 have been announced for 2023/24. Should the wider economic effects continue into 2023/24 this will be a significant risk. There was £144m available in 2022/23 at an all Wales level for local government. The budget advice of the Section 151 Officer is given with the explicit statement of that fundamental uncertainty risk.
- 8.12. Past experience has shown that whilst it is extant Council policy that any reduction in specific grant should be met from an equal reduction in service expenditure, there is often a lag between loss of grant and reduction in costs/change in service levels.

It is also clear that in respect of some specific grants any reduction in associated expenditure may have a detrimental effect in meeting service targets with a consequential increase in future financial penalties.

There are no remaining reserves specifically to protect against grant losses so any reductions will fall firstly to the Service department to manage or if significant will have to be considered for funding from the Contingency Fund.

### ***Earmarked Reserves***

- 8.13. The Council retains earmarked reserves for specific purposes. The reasons for holding these reserves are documented and are subject to ongoing review and scrutiny. The forecast transfers to and from reserves are summarised in Appendix C. There are continuing material draws, as planned, from the time limited Economic Recovery Fund and some other reserves.
- 8.14. On 6<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Council received and approved a report detailing a formal review and re-allocation of Earmarked Revenue Reserves.
- 8.15. From the usual list of specific grants announced by the Welsh Government for 2023/24 it appears that where there are reductions to grants these are not significant so it is unlikely that there will be a significant impact on Swansea.

### ***Review of Insurance Fund***

- 8.16. Following a review of the insurance fund, the level of the sums set aside to provide for future claims which are not known or only partly known at this time are thought to be adequate. Such claims can be very significant and can relate to past periods going back many years. So there will be no further draws from the insurance fund in the short term beyond those already agreed during 2022/23 by Cabinet.

### ***Adequacy of Reserves***

- 8.17. Whilst the proposed use of Earmarked Reserves in 2023/24 funds one off and some recurring expenditure, taking into account the level of General and Earmarked Reserves which would be available should there be an overriding financial requirement, and the arrangements in place to monitor and manage financial risk in 2023/24 and future years, I am satisfied that the proposed management of reserves in 2023/24 will result in a forecast level of General Reserves, Earmarked Reserves and Provisions which may be considered adequate, subject to the potential financial implications of the risks described in Section 11 below and the final budget proposals recommended by Cabinet to Council.
- 8.18. Given the considerable risks and uncertainties facing the Council in 2023/24 and future years, it remains my advice as the officer designated with responsibility for the overall finances of the Council that the above represents reasonable prudent financial management having due regard to service pressures and funding constraints. Nevertheless, increasingly the risks associated with the budget, especially any non-deliverability in practice of planned savings remains very pronounced. This is especially important when viewed in the context of draws from General Reserves in 2017/18 and Earmarked Reserves in 2018/19, which cannot be repeated. Put simply and bluntly both those routes are now all but fully exhausted going forward and Council will have to consider some or all of the following in future years:
- Service reductions
  - Reductions in future capital aspirations
  - Further council tax increases each year
  - Some short term draws from the earmarked reserves set up to manage budgets through to 2026/27, but with an explicitly acceptance and understanding that these are one off mitigations only to enable longer term adjustment to the highly likely tighter public sector funding environment

## **9. Budget Requirement and Council Tax 2023/24**

- 9.1. The Council's recommended requirement is set out in Appendix A. The City and County of Swansea Requirement of £559.900m will be financed partly by Revenue Support Grant of £339.228m and National Non-Domestic Rates of £79.002m.



In light of ongoing uncertainties over the final RSG, final levies, specific grants, the continuation or otherwise of emergency COVID-19 and economic support schemes, potentially unfunded excess costs of future pay awards and the long term capital spending aspirations set out in the Medium Term Financial Plan, the S151 Officer continues to be of the opinion that council tax for 2023/24 could prudently sit within a range of 4.95% to 6.95%, balancing affordability and the cost of living crisis today with the attendant growing risks and uncertainties of tomorrow and having due regard to the wellbeing of future generations.

Based on the report to Cabinet on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022, and in line with assumptions contained in the Welsh Government's spending assessment for Swansea, a Council Tax rise of 4.95% would have generated a sum of £4.186m including assumptions on council tax premiums. This is a band 'D' charge of £1,534.41.

However, following consultation indications and other matters, including the uncertainty of any funding mechanism for teachers pay over and above that included within the budget, the 16.54% increase in the Fire Authority levy, the level of savings to be found within Place and more generally the cost of living crisis (including the uncertainty of energy costs), Cabinet wished to set a Council Tax of 3.95% for Council Services, plus a further 2% to cover the increase in the Fire Authority Levy, a total Council Tax rate of 5.95%.

This will allow the funding of the Fire Authority Levy plus a sum to be set aside in Contingency to cover the above risks, with particular emphasis on being able to fund any increased teachers' pay increases and to defer some Place savings to allow sufficient time to implement them from 2024/25 onwards. The advice of the Section 151 Officer is that this is the minimum required to cover those increases to levies, plus the CTRS cost of those levies. This 5.95% Council Tax increase would generate a sum of £5.528m, a revised Band D charge of £1,549.08.

The impact will be an increase in proposed income of £1.342m. Taking consequential increased CTRS support costs into consideration, this increased income, together with a marginally reduced final Corporate Joint Committee Levy, will be set aside in Contingency for allocation during 2023/24.

This remains provisional pending the final local government finance settlement which is expected on 28<sup>th</sup> February (subject to confirmation) and it is envisaged that as long as there are no material changes at final settlement that this can be contained within the margins of error in the assumptions and estimates already used in this report and accommodated by adjusting contingency. Council will be advised of the final settlement figure before making a final determination on budget and Council Tax and any implications it may have to take into account.

- 9.2. Including Community Councils, the total requirement, after taking account of proposals in respect of reserve transfers and currently assumed savings, is £561.729m.
- 9.3. The above proposals are based on an indicative Council Tax rise which is within the range of planning assumptions of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

## 10. Summary of Funding 2023/24

- 10.1. The implications of Sections 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 above, together with the assumed 5.95% rise in Council Tax identified in Section 9 above, results in a forecast additional funding of £62.005m in 2023/24 as detailed in Table 4:

**Table 4 – Budget Proposals 2023/24**

	<b>£'000</b>
Savings Requirement as per Table 1(a)	24,839
Net effect of Council tax base decrease and proposed charges	5,528
Aggregate External Finance increase	31,638
<b>Overall resourcing</b>	<b>62,005</b>

- 10.2. The S151 Officer is satisfied that the budget proposals detailed in this report represent a realistic and achievable financial plan for 2023/24 subject to the potential financial implications of the risks described in Section 11 below.

## 11. Assessment of Risks and Uncertainties

- 11.1. As in previous years, there are a number of potential costs which have been considered in the context of the budget proposals. In particular :-

### ***(a) Implications of Specific 2022/23 Overspends***

The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter financial monitoring report, discussed elsewhere on this agenda, highlights a number of service overspends, predominantly driven by the 2022/23 pay award. It is anticipated that sufficient funding has been built into the base budget for 2023/24 to mitigate the increased pay award. For any items over and above this, then adjustment via the Contingency Fund will have to be made for any items that are seen to re-occur.

### ***(b) Unavoidable Spending Requirements***

All services will need to meet a range of additional / new pressures in 2023/24. These include the implications of new legislation; demographic changes; final completion of the single status appeals process; and other requirements including heightened inflationary risks in pay and prices in all areas. Whilst reasonable provision has been made for these costs, there is a risk that some items will result in overspends. In particular it has previously been the case that the cost of pay protection arising out of single status implementation can be funded centrally, going forward any and all costs that

arise as a result of the appeals process will have to be met from within specific existing Directorate budgets.

### **(c) Savings**

It is essential in terms of the financial challenges facing the Council beyond 2023/24 that further savings proposals are continuously developed as part of the *Achieving Better Together* programme and emerging transformation programme, and are **implemented over and above those proposed within this budget to provide some future headroom**. This will be a continuation of plans already underway and specifically include existing and the next waves of reviews which **must be rapidly turning recovery plans and assumptions into delivered reality, otherwise service savings will fail to be delivered and net spending pressure return to service budgets for which immediate corrective action will be required**.

The 2023/24 budget includes savings targets which must be fully achieved. **It is a fundamental requirement of the Council's financial procedure rules that Responsible Officers are required to manage expenditure within approved budgets of the Council and to that extent it is essential, should specific proposed budget savings be delayed or postponed, that alternative savings are fully achieved in year to meet approved Directorate Budgets.**

Given the nature and scale of the savings challenge during 2023/24, and more importantly further beyond, there will be continued monitoring and tracking of progress in achieving budget savings which will be reported to Corporate Management Team, Transformation Board and Cabinet through our usual performance and budget monitoring processes.

As noted above, further proposals will be brought to Cabinet during the year as necessary.

### **(d) Inflation**

Where there have been specific announcements around minimum wage increases an estimate has been included around the potential additional costs that may fall to the Council from external contractors. In addition a top up of £0.150m has been added to the substantial provision made last year for inflationary increases in areas where there is a significant element of contracted out services. Headline inflation is at the highest it has been for 30 years and remains a grave cause for concern for all, including the Council.

### **(e) Energy Price Inflation**

Over and above the various provisions for inflation detailed above a fund has been created specifically for energy price increases. This fund will be available for Council Directorates, Schools and Strategic Partners to draw on where there is evidenced need.

The latest energy price forecast indicates that there may be scope to hold and divert up to £3.0m if necessary.

***(f) Care Home Fees***

Budget provision has been made for the 2023 contract settlement with care home providers. However, it is likely that fees will need to be further monitored given that the Council has to undertake an annual review of payments to care home providers which must be robust and evidenced – see specific provision for inflation above.

***(g) Specific Grants***

In the event that the level of specific grants awarded for 2023/24 is less than that for 2022/23, it is essential that Directorates take action to manage such reductions within the proposed spending limits – i.e. there is no ongoing corporate provision for meeting such shortfalls. There is a clear expectation that expenditure will be cut to match the level of grant.

It is, however, acknowledged based on past experience that where specific grants are reduced there may be a time lag between reduction in funding and the Council's ability to reduce costs. It is equally clear that in some areas currently funded by specific grant the Council will, for operational or service reasons, wish to maintain expenditure. Any future bids for funding to cover loss of specific grants will have to be made against the already pressured contingency fund.

***(h) Equal Pay Back Payments***

The bulk of equal pay claims both in number and value have now been fully settled. However, legislation is such that further claims cannot be precluded although the introduction of the compliant pay and grading structure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 will significantly lessen risk in this area over time.

***(i) Implementation of Single Status***

Whilst the Council implemented a compliant pay and grading structure from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014, there has been a continuing small number of appeals against grades awarded. Where these appeals have been successful, it will lead to additional costs over and above the grade initially allocated including incremental costs over a period of up to five years, of which 2018/19 represented the last year and effectively this risk has now materially dropped out since 2019/20 but a minor residual one remains.

***(j) Council Tax Reduction Scheme***

Provision has been made for the estimated costs which are now linked directly to any proposed increases in Council Tax Levels.

***(k) COVID-19 and COVID-19 Grants***

There is a real risk that the ongoing effects of the pandemic could continue to affect national and indeed global finances.

The Welsh Government has effectively removed the grant funding available for the impact of COVID-19 in 2023/24. This is a significant financial risk as things are unlikely to return to normality that rapidly in practice.

### **(I) Capital Financing Charges**

There is a risk that the funding ask (in respect especially of additional unsupported borrowing) highlighted in the Capital Budget report elsewhere on the agenda will result in additional charges over and above the agreed budget provision.

The report on the Capital Programme for 2022/23 – 2027/28 elsewhere on this agenda highlights specific actions that need to be taken to mitigate against future increases in revenue costs linked to increases in unsupported borrowing and further externalisation of current debt. The risks of course are heavily mitigated by having externalised all anticipated medium term traditional capital borrowing requirements for the General Fund.

In additional mitigation, there was a report to Council on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in respect of the formal review of the Minimum Revenue Provision. This has the benefit of reducing capital financing charges in the short to medium term, albeit at the expense of increases in the medium to longer term, before once again reducing in the very long term. These shorter-term fluctuations have been built into the budget for 2023/24 and beyond but appropriate use of the Capital Equalisation Reserve smooths future cost pressures.

The low interest rate and bond yield environment has resulted in historically low interest rates available from the PWLB in the past few years, which the Authority has previously already taken advantage of in funding its capital financing requirement. Although the PWLB have removed the 1% penalty premium on new local authority borrowing (subject to certain criteria), the overall material increases in interest rates over the past year means consideration will also need to be given to sourcing funding at cheaper rates from the following:

- Local authorities
- Financial institutions
- Municipal Bonds Agency
- Deferral of borrowing and material drawdowns of own cash backed reserves, especially the Capital Equalisation Reserve, in the mean time

The degree which any of these options proves cheaper than PWLB Certainty Rate is still evolving at the time of writing but the Section 151 Officer is delegated to identify the most economically advantageous funding and timing option.

11.2. The above risks are both substantial and potentially significant in value. Therefore during 2023/24 specific actions are being put in place which will involve:-

- Monthly monitoring of specific savings targets against an agreed implementation timetable in order to identify any slippage and appropriate and equivalent compensating budget savings through the existing performance and finance management process.

- Ensuring compliance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules, which require Responsible Officers to manage budgets within the limits set by Council.
- The impact of any changes to specific grant funding streams.

## **12. Integrated Impact Assessment Implications**

12.1. The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

12.2. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

12.3. Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

12.4. We know from previous years that, due to the scale of budget reductions, those with protected characteristics are likely to be affected. In assessing the impact of the budget proposals, we continue to attempt to ensure that any effect is not disproportionate and that we continue to focus on mitigation wherever possible. In this context the following should be noted:

- Where IIAs show potential significant impact with no possible mitigation, these proposals will be referred for further consideration
- for those IIAs where potential significant impact has been identified and mitigation has been possible, the associated action plans will be monitored and reviewed
- the outcomes of engagement will inform IIAs
- this is an ongoing process and as noted this statement and many IIAs will remain open for varying periods of time

- there is a focus on the council doing things differently in order to further deliver services that are flexible, citizen-centred, meet individual needs and are sustainable for the future
- 12.5. The council continues to deliver a wide range of services for all the citizens of Swansea. Many of these are of particular benefit to the areas covered by our IIA process, e.g. the protected characteristics defined within the Equality Act 2010.
- 12.6. As highlighted earlier in Appendix F, the council is committed to protecting the vital frontline services that matter most to the people of Swansea, tackling poverty and looking after the most vulnerable in our communities. The council will continue to do everything it can to meet this challenging commitment given the financial constraints it faces. However, services may be provided in a different way in line with ‘Swansea – Achieving Better Together’.
- 13. The Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) 2024/25 – 2026/27**
- 13.1. Many of the issues identified in this report have implications for future years. The MTFP report elsewhere on the agenda includes an assessment of likely shortfalls in future years and outline proposals for achieving savings.

#### **14. Legal Implications**

- 14.1. The Authority is under a duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. Failure to do so will be a breach of that duty.

**Background papers:** None

#### **Appendices:**

- Appendix ‘A’ Revenue Budget Summary 2023/24
- Appendix ‘B’ Net Directorate Budget Proposals
- Appendix ‘C’ Earmarked Reserves
- Appendix ‘D’ Specific Savings Proposals and Service Investment
- Appendix ‘E’ Summary of Consultation Responses
- Appendix ‘F’ Integrated Impact Assessment Statement
- Appendix ‘G’ Response of the Schools’ Budget Forum
- Appendix ‘H’ Directorate Budgets

<b>REVENUE BUDGET SUMMARY 2023/24</b>		<b>APPENDIX A</b>	
<b><i>DIRECTORATE</i></b>	<b>RESTATED</b>		<b>ORIGINAL</b>
	<b>BUDGET</b>		<b>BUDGET</b>
	<b>2022/23</b>		<b>2023/24</b>
	<b>£'000</b>		<b>£'000</b>
CORPORATE SERVICES	24,570		21,440
FINANCE (Including COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME)	32,770		33,738
SOCIAL SERVICES (Including POVERTY AND PREVENTION)	145,328		156,975
EDUCATION	22,994		24,807
EDUCATION - DELEGATED TO SCHOOLS PLACE	179,046		189,670
	74,801		62,681
			0
<b><i>NET DIRECTORATE EXPENDITURE</i></b>	<b>479,509</b>		<b>489,311</b>
SPECIFIC PROVISION FOR INFLATION / APPRENTICESHIP LEVY	4,130		20,330
<i>OTHER ITEMS</i>			
<i>LEVIES</i>			
SWANSEA BAY PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY	88		89
CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE	200		212
<i>CONTRIBUTIONS</i>			
MID & WEST WALES COMBINED FIRE AUTHORITY	14,692		17,122
<i>CAPITAL FINANCING CHARGES</i>			
PRINCIPAL REPAYMENTS	16,868		15,574
NET INTEREST CHARGES	20,510		23,360
<b><i>NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE</i></b>	<b>535,997</b>		<b>565,998</b>
<i>MOVEMENT IN RESERVES</i>			
GENERAL RESERVES	0		0
EARMARKED RESERVES	-13,681		-6,516
<b><i>TOTAL BUDGET REQUIREMENT</i></b>	<b>522,316</b>		<b>559,482</b>
DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF	418		418
<b><i>TOTAL CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA REQUIREMENT</i></b>	<b>522,734</b>		<b>559,900</b>
COMMUNITY COUNCIL PRECEPTS	1,697		1,829
<b><i>TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i></b>	<b>524,431</b>		<b>561,729</b>
<b><i>FINANCING OF TOTAL REQUIREMENT</i></b>			
REVENUE SUPPORT GRANT	297,425		339,228
NATIONAL NON-DOMESTIC RATES	89,167		79,002
COUNCIL TAX - CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA	136,142		141,670
COUNCIL TAX - COMMUNITY COUNCILS	1,697		1,829
<b><i>TOTAL FINANCING</i></b>	<b>524,431</b>		<b>561,729</b>
<b><i>COUNCIL TAX BASE for the City and County of Swansea</i></b>	<b>93,114</b>		<b>91,454</b>
<b><i>COUNCIL TAX AT BAND 'D' (£) for the City and County of Swansea</i></b>	<b>1,462.10</b>		<b>1,549.08</b>
<b><i>GENERAL RESERVES</i></b>			
AT 1 APRIL	10,000		10,000
AT 31 MARCH	10,000		10,000



REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24							
NET DIRECTORATE BUDGET PROPOSALS							
	Corporate Services	Finance (Including Council Tax Reduction Scheme)	Social Services (Including Poverty and Prevention)	Education	Education - Delegated to Schools	Place	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b>Original estimate 2022/23</b>	<b>24,787</b>	<b>32,770</b>	<b>145,111</b>	<b>22,994</b>	<b>179,046</b>	<b>74,801</b>	<b>479,509</b>
Directorate Transfers	-217	0	217	0	0	0	0
<b>Original estimates following transfers</b>	<b>24,570</b>	<b>32,770</b>	<b>145,328</b>	<b>22,994</b>	<b>179,046</b>	<b>74,801</b>	<b>479,509</b>
Transfer to (+) / from (-) reserves 2022/23	-3,094	0	-309	45	0	-14,054	<b>-17,412</b>
<b>Original estimate 2022/23 excluding reserves</b>	<b>21,476</b>	<b>32,770</b>	<b>145,019</b>	<b>23,039</b>	<b>179,046</b>	<b>60,747</b>	<b>462,097</b>
Transfers for specific items 2022/23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baseline adjustments 2022/23	0	152	-159	7	0	0	0
<b>Adjusted service budgets 2022/23</b>	<b>21,476</b>	<b>32,922</b>	<b>144,860</b>	<b>23,046</b>	<b>179,046</b>	<b>60,747</b>	<b>462,097</b>
Baseline adjustments 2023/24	5	5	75	-650	681	-116	0
Spending Needs	705	1,600	7,050	2,305	1,200	210	13,070
Pay inflation provision	2,077	1,521	8,390	2,130	11,673	9,710	35,501
Savings:							
Specific proposals	-2,823	-2,310	-6,100	-1,971	-2,930	-8,705	-24,839
<b>Original estimate 2023/24 excluding reserves</b>	<b>21,440</b>	<b>33,738</b>	<b>154,275</b>	<b>24,860</b>	<b>189,670</b>	<b>61,846</b>	<b>485,829</b>
Transfer to (-) / from (+) reserves 2023/24	0	0	2,700	-53	0	835	<b>3,482</b>
<b>Net Directorate budgets 2023/24</b>	<b>21,440</b>	<b>33,738</b>	<b>156,975</b>	<b>24,807</b>	<b>189,670</b>	<b>62,681</b>	<b>489,311</b>

APPENDIX B

## REVENUE BUDGET 2023/24

### EARMARKED RESERVES

	Balance 31/03/22 £000	2022/23 £000	Balance 31/03/23 £000	2023/24 £000	Balance 31/03/24 £000
<b>DIRECTORATE RESERVES</b>					
Equalisation reserves	-14,502	5,713	-8,789	0	-8,789
Commuted sums	-7,597	75	-7,522	120	-7,402
Repair & renewal funds	-2,211	-109	-2,320	-200	-2,520
Profit share	-1,614	-65	-1,679	-67	-1,746
Service reserves	-36,425	10,581	-25,844	3,526	-22,318
<b>TOTAL DIRECTORATE RESERVES</b>	<b>-62,349</b>	<b>16,195</b>	<b>-46,154</b>	<b>3,379</b>	<b>-42,775</b>
<b>CORPORATE RESERVES</b>					
Contingency Fund	-4,554	-3,553	-8,107	-6,066	-14,173
Insurance	-17,776	0	-17,776	0	-17,776
Job Evaluation earmarked	0	0	0	0	0
Transformation/Efficiency	-42,083	12,840	-29,243	9,183	-20,060
<b>TOTAL CORPORATE RESERVES</b>	<b>-64,413</b>	<b>9,287</b>	<b>-55,126</b>	<b>3,117</b>	<b>-52,009</b>
<b>UNUSABLE/TECHNICAL RESERVES</b>	<b>-2,869</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>-2,669</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-2,649</b>
<b>SCHOOLS DELEGATED RESERVES*</b>	<b>-28,391</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-28,391</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-28,391</b>
<b>TOTAL RESERVES</b>	<b>-158,022</b>	<b>25,682</b>	<b>-132,340</b>	<b>6,516</b>	<b>-125,824</b>

\* There is no updated information available for schools for 2022/23 or 2023/24. However reserve use is expected to be substantial during both 2022/23 and 2023/24 (up to £18m)  
 In addition to the above, there will be draws from both the Capital Equalisation Reserve and the Insurance Reserve to fund Highways Capital works (up to £4m over 2 years)  
 Again in addition to the above, there could be further draws from the Capital Equalisation Reserve for future potential capital acquisitions

## APPENDIX D

## Part 1 – Savings Proposals

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Do not fill vacant post.	60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Carry vacancy	60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Recharge Finance for Council Tax printing and associated costs	20
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Refocus PR budget	25
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Communications Service</b>	<b>Remove post via ER/VR in Corporate Management Team support</b>	<b>0</b>
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Remove underspend in Corporate Management support budget	56
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review CMT support	60
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review Design Print	105
Corporate Services	Communications Service	Review funding model of the Public Service Board support role	22
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Communications Service</b>	<b>Review Policy and Development Support</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Communications Service</b>	<b>Review Research and Information Team</b>	<b>0</b>
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Licences saving	252
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Mobile Phone saving	11
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Move hardware replacement budget to the capital programme	450
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Phone contract charges saving	15
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Reduce in vehicle hire	5
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Support and maintenance contract saving	30
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Remove vacant post	48
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Review customer services function	36

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Review IT service desk service	42
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	Supplies and Services	5
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	15% increase to fees and charges	3
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Director</b>	<b>Reduce expenditure on senior management as part of review</b>	<b>25</b>
Corporate Services	Director	Non-staff spend savings due to different ways of working	1
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Local subscription saving	15
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Bring Welsh language advertising in house	25
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Deletion of vacant post	31
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Remove surplus non staff budgets	47
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Restructure Service Centre Management	50
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Review funding for Trade Union Admin support	21
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Review of merchant services	70
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Review Service Level Agreement provision to schools	81
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Staff restructure in Learning & Development Team	20
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Staff restructure in service centre	77
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Additional Saving post Oracle Cloud implementation	30
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	10% increase in fees and charges	10
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	10% increase on schools' Service Level Agreements	13

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Reductions in non-staffing budgets	27
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Remove vacant post	18
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Remove vacant posts	87
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Legal, Democratic Services &amp; Business Intelligence</b>	<b>Review Legal Services</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Corporate Services</b>	<b>Legal, Democratic Services &amp; Business Intelligence</b>	<b>Review of Legal Services - income adjustment</b>	<b>-8</b>
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Review Democratic Services and Scrutiny support staff	*86
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Review Information and Governance Unit and Welsh Translation Unit	*82
Corporate Services	Legal, Democratic Services & Business Intelligence	Supplies & Services	33
Corporate Services		Employer saving on pension costs as advised by Pension S151 Officer	450
Corporate Services		Reversal of National Insurance 1.25%	195
		<b>Corporate Services Total</b>	<b>2,823</b>
Education	Non-Delegated	Explore construction of new Available Walking Routes to Schools providing savings	196
Education	Non-Delegated	Enhance in County provision reducing out of county costs	232
Education	Non-Delegated	Home to School Transport saving	100
Education	Non-Delegated	Further review of demand and service pressures	60
Education	Non-Delegated	Catering & Cleaning services full cost recovery	100
Education	Non-Delegated	Better targeting of Education otherwise than at school (EOTAS) spending following full implementation of new model of provision	120

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Education	Non-Delegated	Wider review of Directorate staffing to refocus resources and enhance cost recovery from other funding streams	63
Education	Non-Delegated	Additional Learning Needs Post 16 Transport - promotion of independent travel	25
Education	Non-Delegated	Continuing review and rationalisation of the directorate.	125
Education	Non-Delegated	Saving from migration of pupil management information system to the cloud	300
Education		Employer saving on pension costs as advised by Pension S151 Officer	450
Education		Reversal of National Insurance 1.25%	200
		<b>Education (Non-Delegated) Total</b>	<b>1,971</b>
Finance	Accountancy	Review accountancy service	30
Finance	Audit/Fraud	Review audit and fraud service	45
Finance	Benefits	Remove vacant posts	94
Finance	Benefits	Remove vacant post	16
Finance	Commercial Services	Remove vacant post in Commercial Services	100
Finance	CTRS	Rebase Council Tax Reduction Scheme	1,541
Finance	Deputy Chief Finance Officer	Review of Finance management structure	25
Finance	Insurance/ Treasury	Review insurance/treasury service	104
Finance		Employer saving on pension costs as advised by Pension S151 Officer	250
Finance		Reversal of National Insurance 1.25%	105
		<b>Finance Total</b>	<b>2,310</b>
Place	Building Services	Additional income through significantly increased work programme	650
Place	Building Services	Reduce trading account budget, covered by increased income generation.	600
Place	Cultural Services	Implementation of income generation agreement within the Grand Theatre Arts Wing	*75
Place	Cultural Services	Increase fees and income targets in line with inflation	110
Place	Cultural Services	Review budget to deliver Cultural Activity	60
Place	Cultural Services	Review contract agreement with Waterfront Museum	*100

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Place	Cultural Services	Review Service Management and Directorate Budget for development work and cross support for Dylan Thomas Centre and staff	130
Place	Cultural Services	Review the partnership agreement with Wales National Pool	*100
Place	Highways & Transport	Increase car park income	250
Place	Highways & Transport	Standardise charges in non-city centre car parks	*100
Place	Highways & Transport	Apply full cost recovery principles to day markets on car parks and highways	20
Place	Highways & Transport	Energy saving from implementing LED lamps from extra investment	80
Place	Highways & Transport	Increase fee charges against highways maintenance capital works	100
Place	Highways & Transport	Uplift foreshore parking charges	350
Place	Highways & Transport	Increase street works and licencing fees annually in line with inflationary levels	25
Place	Highways & Transport	Increased charges and income from Marina and Knab Rock	40
Place	Highways & Transport	Introduce charges for parking waivers	100
Place	Highways & Transport	Operate an Additional Parking Enforcement camera car	57
Place	Highways & Transport	Review Parking Services Team	75
Place	Housing & Public Health	Introduce paid for advice and approval service for businesses across Food Safety and Trading Standards functions	22
Place	Housing & Public Health	5% Increase in Fees for next 4 years Cemeteries and Cremations. Fees are controlled by statute (The Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order 1977)	130
Place	Housing & Public Health	5% Increase in Fees in next 4 years Registrars. Fees are controlled by statute (Marriage Act 1949) stating the income from charges should not exceed the costs of provision.	30
Place	Housing & Public Health	Building Control - Various reductions to running costs	6
Place	Housing & Public Health	Delete vacancy and put permanent revised Food team management structure in place	100
Place	Housing & Public Health	Remove surplus budget	17

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase Food Safety and Trading Standards Fees by 15%	15
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase in Fees for next 4 years Building Control (in accordance with Land Authority Building Charges Regulations 2010)	23
Place	Housing & Public Health	Increase pest control fees to 15% for schools' contract and general pest income	15
Place	Housing & Public Health	Licensing staff restructure	39
Place	Housing & Public Health	non staffing Budget reductions	17
Place	Housing & Public Health	Decommission Nowcaster air quality monitoring system	*28
Place	Housing & Public Health	Review of Urban Renewals Service	151
Place	Housing & Public Health	Review Public Health Service	45
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Fee income from capital projects in City Regeneration to offset revenue costs	265
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Increase Land Charges Income	30
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Increase Planning Fee Income	100
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Revise Swansea Market Rent Charges	*50
Place	Planning and City Regeneration	Review Nature Conservation, Regeneration, Economic Development, & Planning sections	60
Place	Property Services	Increase in Quadrant income	140
Place	Property Services	Increase in Service Level Agreement Income	100
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Apply full cost recovery principles to graffiti charges over 4 years	10
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase weighbridge charges	55
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase Bulky Waste Collections charges	15
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase Cleansing income due to 15% increase in charges to third parties	13
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase Grounds Maintenance income due to 15% increase in charges to HRA, schools and third parties	50



Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increased income due to 15% increase in cost of separately paid for Ward Operatives	22
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase income from Reuse Shop	10
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase income from Wood Project	10
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Increase weed spraying income due to 15% increase in charges to Housing, schools and third parties	25
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Reallocate current Cleansing Project Teams	230
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Remove 50% of additional funding for mechanical brush resource at leaf fall	*25
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Remove additional funding for litter bin replacements	*105
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review breadth and scale of cleansing operations	*150
<b>Place</b>	<b>Waste, Parks &amp; Cleansing</b>	<b>Review individual missed collections service</b>	<b>0</b>
Place	Waste, Parks & Cleansing	Review Street Cleaning	30
Place	Various	"Income earning" services to self-fund pay increase costs from increased fee charges on full cost recovery	750
Place		Employer saving on pension costs as advised by Pension S151 Officer	2,000
Place		Reversal of National Insurance 1.25%	800
		<b>Place Total</b>	<b>8,705</b>
Social Services	Adult Services	Realise saving in efficiencies through the Supported Living Framework and benefits of being located together (2.5% rather than 5% stated in contractual arrangements in light of Covid)	100
Social Services	Adult Services	Work though Complex Needs high-cost placements and establish a collaborative approach with Health for funding these packages of care to achieve a reduction in the overall costs of these packages due to more efficient and effective working with health in terms of new guidance around continuing health care cases	250
Social Services	Adult Services	Reduction in costs for external residential care by changing the business model and how we are funding voids in the system	50

Director	Head of Service Budget	Description	2023/24 £'000
Social Services	Adult Services	Increase client contribution and review of all fees and charges with a view to incorporating inflationary increases estimated at 10% in line with spending restrictions	1,000
Social Services	Adult Services	Review extra care services and recommission a different operating model to achieve efficiencies and better outcomes for individuals	100
Social Services	Child and Family Services	Continue to implement the new framework for the funding of children's complex needs placements to ensure continued equitable funding of these placements with Health	150
Social Services	Child and Family Services	Supported accommodation and floating support efficiency savings following a review and recommissioning exercise	100
Social Services	Child & Family Services	Reduce placement costs through negotiations with providers to achieve best value for children for both 4Cs framework and non-framework providers	500
Social Services	Directorate	Replacing core costs of non-statutory teams with Grant money which may become available through a range of local or regional opportunities	300
Social Services	Directorate	Do not fill vacant posts in Social Services	1,000
Social Services	Directorate	Employer saving on pension costs as advised by Pension S151 Officer	1,850
Social Services	Directorate	Reversal of National Insurance 1.25%	700
		<b>Social Services Total</b>	<b>6,100</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21,909</b>

## Part 2 – Service Pressures and Investment

Director	Head of Service	Description	2023/24 £'000
Corporate Services	Legal and Democratic Services	Increase to Councillors costs due to IRPW Report	15
Social Services	Adults	Various Adult Services pressures including loss of income (grants), staff costs, inflationary contract costs and ongoing additional COVID-19 costs	50
Social Services	Child & Family	Various Child and Family Services pressures including loss of income (grants), staff costs, inflationary contract costs and ongoing additional COVID-19 costs	100

Director	Head of Service	Description	2023/24 £'000
Education	Non-Delegated	Unbudgeted and uncontrollable ER/VR and ongoing pension costs - beyond base budget assumptions re service pressures	600
Education	Non-Delegated	ALN Act Implications	600
Education	Non-Delegated	ALN - out of county placements and pupil support - beyond base assumptions re service pressures	200
Education	Non-Delegated	ALN (including Post 16) Transport cost pressures in excess of planning assumptions	360
<b>Education</b>	<b>Non-Delegated</b>	<b>Home to School Transport (primary, secondary, post 16, ALN and special schools) - increased contract costs due to inflation, fuel etc.</b>	<b>0</b>
Corporate Services	HR & Service Centre	Remove unachievable HR Saving	139
Corporate Services	Digital and Customer Services	JE Regrading	21
Corporate Services	Directorate	Remove unachievable Saving	30
Education	Non-Delegated	Catering - shortfall between universal free school meal grant and actual costs (manifesto commitment)	285
Education	Non-Delegated	Catering - difference between frozen paid meal price and actual costs (manifesto commitment)	260
<b>Finance</b>	<b>Commercial Services</b>	<b>Additional resource to comply with procurement/supply requirements</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>Waste, Parks &amp; Cleansing</b>	<b>Additional toilet cleaning resource following the successful ERF funded pilot scheme</b>	<b>60</b>
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,820</b>

Changes to the budget proposal report are shown in **Bold Italic**  
Deferrals arising from the February Cabinet report are shown as \*red

## Budget Consultation Results 2023

### Budget Consultation

Consultation on the specific budget proposals ran from 3rd January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. A survey was produced detailing the council's budget proposals, giving people the opportunity to provide their feedback. In total 440 people took part in the general budget consultation survey.

The consultation was available online at [www.swansea.gov.uk/budgetsurvey](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/budgetsurvey), hard copies were made available in all our Libraries.

908 visits to our Budget Consultation webpages. A link was also provided on our internal staff site Staffnet that went straight to the main budget page.

### Communication and Social Media

The consultation was promoted across Swansea within the press and social media. This resulted in:

- Three press releases resulting in twelve media and social media news mentions
- Seven social media mentions, reaching 18.4k on social media and 2.3k via the council's online weekly newsletter.

### Budget Consultation Summary Results (full results Appendix A)

The survey provided the opportunity for people to have their say on:

- Future funding of services
- Proposed spend 2023/24
- Future Spend
- Budget Proposals

#### Future funding of services

**46%** Would you be prepared to pay more for some services rather than lose them?

**73%** Would you prefer for the Council to deliver services in a different way rather than lose them?

**50%** Would you be prepared to accept a higher increase in Council Tax to fund services rather than lose them?

#### What level of Council Tax increase would you accept?

**56%** Below inflation level rise

**41%** A rise in line with inflation levels

**3%** Above inflation rise

#### Proposed Spend

**87%** Agree that Social Services and Education should remain the Council's priority in terms of future spend?

## **Future Spend**

Respondents were asked: **If there was money available, in which areas would you like to see the Council invest in?**

Areas which were selected the most are outlined below:

**63%** Care for Older People and Disabled Adults

**54%** Street/Road Repairs

**45%** Housing and Homelessness

**44%** Keeping Children Safe

**42%** Tackling Poverty

**39%** Parks & Green Spaces

## **Budget Proposals**

The majority of proposals were supported by respondents.

## **Council Fees and Charges**

The survey asked a series of questions around proposed increase of fees and charges across the Council:

**57%** Agree with the proposal to increase our fees and charges with inflation rises

**43%** Agree with the proposal to increase our fees and charges to recover all costs of providing our services

**68%** Agree with the proposal to introduce a Resident App

**75%** Agree with the proposal to introduce a discounted residents' rate for some of our carparks

### **Social Care Services:**

**54%** Would prefer to pay more for those services rather than see a reduced level of service

### **Other Proposals:**

Areas which received the highest levels of objection and agreement are outlined below:

#### **Agree**

**95%** agree to keep the £1 Park and Ride tariff and not return to the price of £2.50 until April 2024

**82%** agree to review the funding arrangements for the National Waterfront Museum and look to reduce the Council's contribution.

**80%** agree to introduce a £3 charge in all City Centre car parks for overnight parking

**78%** agree to remove the facility to pick up individual missed rubbish collections.

**77%** agree to increase the charge of the disposal of non-household waste at the Bailing Plant in Llansamlet by 7.5.%

**76%** agree to review the funding arrangements of the National Pool when the current arrangement ceases. The Council currently contributes 50% of the funding for this venue

**73%** agree to the introduction of a charge per event for markets and car boots sales at Uplands Market, Dairy Car Park and High Street Multi Storey Car Park. The charge would be for event organisers.

### **Disagree**

**60%** Disagree with the proposed car park charges for Copr Bay Car Parks?

**54%** Disagree with introducing charges in larger Council run car parks in Fendrod Lake

**53%** Disagree with introducing charges in larger Council run car parks in Gorseinon

**53%** Disagree with introducing charges in larger Council run car parks in Morriston

**50%** Disagree with introducing charges in larger Council run car parks in South Beach,  
Trawler Road (Marina)

### **Budget Report**

Comments on the overall budget report were sort 167 comments have been received.

Text comments provided in the survey have been presented in full to Cabinet members for consideration.

### **Other Correspondence**

We received a number of letters in relation to the budget proposals:

- 1 letter from Swansea Trades Council
- 1 letter from Wales National Pool Swansea
- 1 letter from Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales

These correspondence can be viewed in Appendix 2

## Appendix 1

### Are you ...

280 (63.6%)	A member of the public	4 (0.9%)	A third sector organisation/partner organisation (please specify)
149 (33.9%)	A council employee	2 (0.5%)	A private sector organisation/partner organisation (please specify)
5 (1.1%)	An elected member		
10 (100.0%)			

### Postcode:

429 (100.0%)

## Future funding of services

Due to the size of the budget challenge facing the Council in the coming years, we may not be able to provide the same number or level of services in the future.

We want your views on how we can provide services in the future:

### Would you be prepared to pay more for some services rather than lose them?

192 (46.2%) Yes  
224 (53.8%) No

### If yes, please state in the box below which services you would be prepared to pay towards in the future:

157 (100.0%)

### Would you be prepared to accept a higher increase in Council Tax to fund services rather than lose them?

214 (50.0%) Yes  
214 (50.0%) No

### If yes, what level of Council Tax increase would you accept?

144 (56.0%) Below inflation level rise  
105 (40.9%) A rise in line with inflation levels  
8 (3.1%) Above inflation level rise

### Would you prefer for the Council to deliver services in a different way rather than lose them?

302 (72.9%) Yes  
112 (27.1%) No

### If yes, please state in the box below how would you like services delivered differently in the future:

172 (100.0%)

### Proposed Spend 2023/24:

### Do you agree or disagree that Social Services and Education should remain the Council's priority in terms of future spend?

212 (50.4%) Strongly Agree  
154 (36.6%) Tend to Agree  
32 (7.6%) Tend to Disagree  
23 (5.5%) Strongly Disagree

### If you disagree, please tell us why?

53 (100.0%)

**Future Spend:**

**If there was money available, in which areas would you like to see the Council invest in?**

270 (62.6%)	Care for Older People and Disabled Adults	125 (29.0%)	Council Housing
18 (4.2%)	Keeping people informed about the Council	37 (8.6%)	Improvements to Council buildings
45 (10.4%)	Engaging and consulting people on things the council does	195 (45.2%)	Housing & Homelessness
52 (12.1%)	Promoting and supporting Equality and Diversity	182 (42.2%)	Tackling Poverty
19 (4.4%)	Improving the Council's website	118 (27.4%)	Libraries
28 (6.5%)	Promoting and supporting Welsh Language	108 (25.1%)	Community Centres
63 (14.6%)	Making the Council more commercial	136 (31.6%)	Children's Play / Youth Services
191 (44.3%)	Keeping Children Safe	101 (23.4%)	Developing Swansea City Centre
154 (35.7%)	School improvements	96 (22.3%)	Refuse Collection
138 (32.0%)	Additional Learning needs	114 (26.5%)	Recycling services
135 (31.3%)	Education services	141 (32.7%)	Street cleaning
80 (18.6%)	Adult learning	168 (39.0%)	Parks & Green Spaces
234 (54.3%)	Street/Road Repairs	116 (26.9%)	Sports, Leisure & Cultural Facilities
69 (16.0%)	Traffic Management	91 (21.1%)	Transport services/ Bus station
69 (16.0%)	Car Parking	18 (4.2%)	Other (write in)
50 (100.0%)			

**Budget Proposals: Council Fees and Charges**

As a Council we charge for a number of services that we provide. This allows us to use the income from these services to provide them and allows us to recover the cost of providing services to help us fund other services we provide. The cost of living crisis has brought unprecedented challenges for households across the country. Swansea Council has been affected in the same way. The effects of higher energy bills has added an extra £15 million to our costs. On top of this inflation has reached more than 10 percent this year, which means the cost of everything we buy and use has increased during the year. At the same time, the UK Government has agreed national pay rises for Council and school staff without providing funding for them. To ensure that we can continue to provide our services we need to review how much we charge for them.

It is proposed that as a Council we adopt the principle of increasing our charges in line with increased inflation costs or to ensure we recover all cost of providing our services.

**Do you agree or disagree with the proposed principles:**

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Increase our fees and charges in line with inflation rises	58 (13.6%)	186 (43.7%)	109 (25.6%)	73 (17.1%)
Increase our fees and charges to recover all costs of providing our services	35 (8.9%)	132 (33.6%)	135 (34.4%)	91 (23.2%)



**Are there any comments you would like to make about the proposed principles around increasing fees and charges**

140 (100.0%)

To minimise the impact of the proposed increases to fees and charges the Council is proposing the introduction of a Residents App which will give people who live in Swansea access to offers and discounts.

**Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce a Resident App?**

103 (24.0%)	Strongly Agree	189 (44.0%)	Tend to Agree	73 (17.0%)	Tend to Disagree	65 (15.1%)	Strongly Disagree
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This proposed principle to increase charges in line with increased inflation costs or to ensure we recover all costs of providing our services would also apply to car parking charges. To minimise the impact of the proposed increased the Council is proposing to introduce a discounted residents rates for some car parks.

**Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to introduce a discounted residents' rates for some car parks?**

143 (33.3%)	Strongly Agree	179 (41.7%)	Tend to Agree	61 (14.2%)	Tend to Disagree	46 (10.7%)	Strongly Disagree
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This proposed principle to increase charges in line with increased inflation costs or to ensure we recover all cost of providing our services would also apply to charges to Social Care Services. Our Social Services Charging Policy has been produced in accordance with the legal requirements set out in The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 ("the Act") and sets out Swansea Council's position on charging for social care. It is proposed that where services are currently charged, these charges will be increased by only 10%. Maximum charging and means testing will still apply as per the current policy. Details of the policy and list of charges current applied can be found here.

If you need any further information in relation to the proposed increase in charges for social care please contact us on the details below:

Email: SWInbox@swansea.gov.uk

Tel: 01792 636322

**Do you currently pay for Social Care Services?**

28 (6.6%)	Yes
397 (93.4%)	No

**Would you prefer to pay more for those services rather than see a reduced level of service?**

185 (54.4%)	Yes
155 (45.6%)	No

**Are there any comments you would like to make about how this will affect you?**

86 (100.0%)

**Budget Proposals: Cultural Services**

**Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals:**

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Council currently contributes around £650,000 of funding to the National Waterfront Museum per year which makes up 35% of the total funding for this venue. We propose to review the current funding arrangements and look to reduce the Council's contribution by £100,000 a year for the next 3 years	200 (46.7%)	150 (35.0%)	49 (11.4%)	29 (6.8%)

The Council currently contributes around £300,000 of funding to the Wales National Pool per year which makes up 50% of the total funding for this venue. We proposed to review the current funding arrangements post December 2023 when the current arrangements cease.

176	149	62	39 (9.2%)
(41.3%)	(35.0%)	(14.6%)	

### Budget Proposals: Waste, Parks and Cleansing

#### Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals:

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
At present if individual collections are missed, often due to being put out late, people can ring up and the service will return to collect. The proposal is to remove this facility from April 2023. This will not include those who receive assisted collections, or instances where whole streets are missed. This will save the Council £30,000	230 (54.1%)	100 (23.5%)	42 (9.9%)	53 (12.5%)
Residents and businesses are currently charged for the disposal of non-household waste at the Baling Plant in Llansamlet. The weighbridge is used and charged applied by weight. We propose to increase this charge by 7.5%	153 (36.0%)	172 (40.5%)	48 (11.3%)	52 (12.2%)

### Budget Proposals: Highways and Transport

#### Do you agree or disagree with the following proposals:

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
To ensure consistency with other charging arrangements we proposed to charge for the use of public space. At present a number of markets and car boot sales take place across the city. We propose to introduce a charge per event to hold these at the following locations: Uplands Market, Dairy Car Park Market and High Street Multi Storey Car Park. The charge would be for those organising the events.	153 (35.7%)	160 (37.3%)	67 (15.6%)	49 (11.4%)
Proposal to purchase an additional Parking Enforcement Car. These are used to enforce parking measures in bus stops, schools, keep clear markings, taxi ranks, and areas where stopping or loading is prohibited. This will lead to increase levels of public safety on the highway due to higher levels of compliance.	117 (27.3%)	101 (23.5%)	82 (19.1%)	129 (30.1%)

### Budget Proposals: Car Parking

We propose to introduce car parking charges in larger council-owned car parks that are currently free. We want to ensure that customers wanted to use these car parks have the opportunity to do so. This will contribute to the management and maintenance of the car parks and also encourage increased turnover freeing up spaces to allow more people to use them.

#### Do you agree or disagree with introducing charges in larger Council run car parks in the following areas:

	Strongly Agree	Tend to Agree	Tend to Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Morrison	82 (19.6%)	114 (27.2%)	104 (24.8%)	119 (28.4%)
Gorseinon	79 (18.9%)	115 (27.6%)	100 (24.0%)	123 (29.5%)

Fendrod Lake	82 (19.5%)	113 (26.8%)	99 (23.5%)	127 (30.2%)
South Beach, Trawler road (Marina)	84 (20.1%)	124 (29.7%)	89 (21.3%)	120 (28.8%)

### Proposed Tariffs for Copr Bay Car Parks

Here are the proposed tariffs for Copr Bay Car Park including a discounted residents tariff for Swansea Residents. The residents' discount tariffs will be available if the new tariffs go live on 1st April.

#### Do you agree or disagree with the proposed car park charges for Copr Bay Car Parks?

59 (14.0%)	Strongly Agree	111 (26.4%)	Tend to Agree	124 (29.5%)	Tend to Disagree	127 (30.2%)	Strongly Disagree
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### Proposed Tariffs for Park and Ride Services

During the Covid pandemic both Landore and Fabian Way Park and Ride sites were closed. As restrictions eased both sites reopened and the price of the service was reduced from £2.50 to £1.00.

Income and observations indicates that the uptake of this Park and Ride offer has been low with city centre workers appearing to be using the Mi Permit App to pay for 1 hour car parking at £1 and then pay £2 for all day parking after 9:30am. Whilst the car parks appear full each day the turnover of spaces is low. Rather than encouraging visitors into the city centre, spaces are being occupied by city centre workers. To encourage customers (including city centre workers) to return to using the service it is proposed to keep the £1 tariff and not return the price to £2.50 until 1st April 2024.

#### Do you agree or disagree with the proposals to to keep the £1 Park and Ride tariff and not return the price to £2.50 until 1st April 2024

153 (35.7%)	Strongly Agree	169 (39.5%)	Tend to Agree	56 (13.1%)	Tend to Disagree	50 (11.7%)	Strongly Disagree
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### Overnight parking charges

We propose that a £3 charge be introduced in all city centre car parks for overnight parking (9pm to 8am) excluding Copr Bay (Arena car parks) where an overnight tariff is already proposed.

#### Do you agree or disagree with the proposals to introduce £3 charge in all city centre car parks for overnight parking (9pm to 8am) excluding Copr Bay where an overnight tariff is already proposed.

160 (37.6%)	Strongly Agree	181 (42.6%)	Tend to Agree	39 (9.2%)	Tend to Disagree	45 (10.6%)	Strongly Disagree
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### Sunday Parking Charges

At present all city centre car parks and Copr Bay car park are free to customers on Sundays. It is proposed to introduce parking tariffs seven days a week to be consistent with the current beach and foreshore car park tariffs which include Sundays. To contribute to operational costs and ensure that the Car Parks are staffed and maintained properly, for the safety and convenience of our customers, it is considered appropriate that a modest charge should be applied in city centre car parks for Sunday parking. It is proposed that tariffs of £1 for up to one hour and £2 all day be introduced.

#### Do you agree or disagree with the proposals to introduce Sunday car park charges city centre car parks at a tariff of £1 for up to one hour and £2 all day.

120 (27.9%)	Strongly Agree	162 (37.7%)	Tend to Agree	52 (12.1%)	Tend to Disagree	96 (22.3%)	Strongly Disagree
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## Other Comments

**If you have any comments about the budget proposals or anything else contained in the Cabinet budget report please write in here:**

167 (100.0%)

### Welsh Language Impact:

**Do you have any concerns or evidence to suggest that the Council is treating/using the Welsh language less favourably than English in relation to its proposed budget for 2022/23?**

226 (100.0%)

**If yes, please give details and state how the budget suggested will affect opportunities to use the Welsh language in your view?**

20 (100.0%)

**What changes could be made in order to have a more positive effect on the Welsh language?**

81 (100.0%)

## About You: Finding out who has taken part

In accordance with Data Protection law, any information requested on the following questions is held in the strictest confidence for data analysis purposes only. For further information about how Swansea Council uses your personal data, please see our corporate privacy notice on our website [www.swansea.gov.uk/privacynotice](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/privacynotice).

### Are you...?

159 (37.6%)	Male
227 (53.7%)	Female
2 (0.5%)	Prefer to self-describe (write in)
35 (8.3%)	Prefer not to say
2 (100.0%)	

### Is your gender you identify with the same as that which you were assigned at birth?

375 (89.5%)	Yes
4 (1.0%)	No
40 (9.5%)	Prefer not to say

### How old are you ...

0 (0.0%)	Under 16	80 (19.0%)	56 - 65
7 (1.7%)	16 - 25	38 (9.0%)	66 - 75
54 (12.9%)	26 - 35	12 (2.9%)	76 - 85
104 (24.8%)	36 - 45	4 (1.0%)	Over 85
91 (21.7%)	46 - 55	30 (7.1%)	Prefer not to say

### How would you describe your national identity?

**Please mark all that apply**

217 (51.7%)	British	1 (0.2%)	Other British (please write in at end)
226 (53.8%)	Welsh	6 (1.4%)	Non British (please write in at end)
13 (3.1%)	English	0 (0.0%)	Refugee/Asylum Seeker (please write in current/last nationality at end)
4 (1.0%)	Irish	21 (5.0%)	Prefer not to say
2 (0.5%)	Scottish		

*Write in here*

5 (100.0%)

**To what 'ethnic' group do you consider you belong...**

368 (88.7%)	White - Welsh, English, Scottish, Northern Irish or British	1 (0.2%)	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani
3 (0.7%)	White - Irish	0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi
0 (0.0%)	White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller	0 (0.0%)	Asian or Asian British - Chinese
0 (0.0%)	White - Roma	0 (0.0%)	Any other Asian background (please write in at end)
7 (1.7%)	Any other White background (please write in at end)	0 (0.0%)	Black or Black British - Caribbean
0 (0.0%)	Mixed - White & Black Caribbean	1 (0.2%)	Black or Black British - African
0 (0.0%)	Mixed - White & Black African	0 (0.0%)	Any other Black background (please write in at end)
1 (0.2%)	Mixed - White & Asian	0 (0.0%)	Arab
1 (0.2%)	Any other Mixed background (please write in at end)	3 (0.7%)	Other ethnic group ( please write in at end)
1 (0.2%)	Asian or Asian British - Indian	29 (7.0%)	Prefer not to say

*Write in here*

6 (100.0%)

**What is your religion?****Please mark one box or write in**

189 (46.2%)	No religion	1 (0.2%)	Muslim
164 (40.1%)	Christian (all denominations)	0 (0.0%)	Sikh
4 (1.0%)	Buddhist	5 (1.2%)	Other
2 (0.5%)	Hindu	44 (10.8%)	Prefer not to say
0 (0.0%)	Jewish		

*Any other religion or philosophical belief (please write in)*

8 (100.0%)

**What is your sexual orientation**

18 (4.4%)	Bisexual	72 (17.7%)	Prefer not to say
18 (4.4%)	Gay/ Lesbian	2 (0.5%)	Other
297 (73.0%)	Heterosexual		

*Please write in*

4 (100.0%)

**Can you understand, speak, read or write Welsh?****Please mark all that apply**

86 (20.6%)	Understand spoken Welsh	64 (15.3%)	Learning Welsh
47 (11.3%)	Speak Welsh	220 (52.8%)	None of these
46 (11.0%)	Read Welsh	47 (11.3%)	Prefer not to say
31 (7.4%)	Write Welsh		

**Which languages do you use from day to day?****Please mark all that apply**

384 (92.1%)	English	4 (1.0%)	Other (write in)
42 (10.1%)	Welsh	31 (7.4%)	Prefer not to say

*Please write in*

9 (100.0%)

**Do you have any physical or mental conditions or illnesses lasting or expecting to last 12 months or more?**

96 (23.1%)	Yes
261 (62.9%)	No
58 (14.0%)	Prefer not to say

**Do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-today activities?**

66 (16.2%)	Yes
280 (68.8%)	No
61 (15.0%)	Prefer not to say

**Thank you for your participation**

## Appendix 2

### Formal Response from Swansea Trades Council:

#### PROPOSALS 2023

Swansea trades council is the body that co-ordinates and joins together the TUC affiliated trade unions in the Swansea area. We are affiliated to the Wales TUC. We promote the interests of our affiliated trade union branches both in terms of defending the pay, jobs, terms and conditions of trade union members, but also the public services which they provide and upon which our community depends.

We note that the Council cabinet met to agree its 2023 budget proposals on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December and initiated a public consultation exercise ending on 31<sup>st</sup> January. As this includes the Christmas and new year period, it allows very little time for organisations to meet and agree a comprehensive response. In addition, the consultation document appears to be targeted mainly at individuals and is framed to encourage members of the public to prioritise some services over others. There is an assumption throughout the document that some cuts to services will have to be made (although this is phrased as savings rather than cuts to make it appear less painful than it really is). The consultation also asks members of the public to indicate whether they would be prepared to pay charges for some services rather than lose them or to pay higher council tax for services rather than lose them.

Swansea council therefore presents the public with a choice between severe cuts to services or less severe cuts accompanied by new or increased charges and/or a higher than inflation council tax increase. We in Swansea trades council are not prepared to buy in to that scenario. Our starting point as a trade union body is to defend the services that the people of Swansea need and also to resist further attacks on living standards in the midst of a cost of living crisis. That is why we have chosen not to complete the survey produced by Swansea council, but instead we are presenting this written response and circulating it to the trade union movement in Swansea.

We note that the City and County of Swansea has been allocated an additional sum of around £30m in extra funding from Welsh Government for 2023/24, a rise of around 7%. This is similar to the £33.9m allocated for last year.

The council estimates that £45m would be needed to maintain services at current levels, leaving a shortfall of £15m. However, when we take into account spiralling costs, especially energy costs, the council estimates that 'savings' (cuts) of £25m will be needed this year. These 'savings' (cuts) could include the loss of 68 council posts which would be achieved by not filling existing vacancies or voluntary redundancy if possible. However, compulsory redundancy is not ruled out.

The only alternative posed by the council to mitigate this is charging for services or higher council tax.

This is not acceptable. The council admitted in the 2022 budget document that it had already made 'savings' (cuts) of £70m under the Sustainable Swansea strategy since 2013. The strategy of trimming back services year after year is no strategy at all. It is simply a capitulation to the underfunding of local authorities pursued by the Westminster Government and transmitted onwards by the Welsh Government.

We accept that the council is required by law to present a balanced budget, but we believe that this is possible without having to resort to cuts or large council tax rises. The council should explore every avenue including use of reserves, borrowing and zero impact income generation to ensure that services can be maintained and improved this year.

However, we also recognise that a strategy based on borrowing and use of reserves cannot be a long - term strategy either. The only way to resolve the crisis in local government funding is to demand and campaign for more funding from Welsh Government

(and ultimately from the Westminster Government). To achieve this, the Labour council in Swansea must adopt a totally different approach. They must abandon the submissive stance of simply administering and passing on Tory cuts. The trade unions are currently showing the way by fighting back against austerity. Health and education unions do not meekly accept the word of Welsh Government when they claim they cannot afford inflation – proof pay rises. They demand that Welsh Government fights for more funding.

We call on Swansea council to:-

- Use reserves and prudential borrowing powers to avoid making any further cuts to jobs and services this year. Reject the advice that current reserves cannot be touched.
- Reject any privatisation of council services and bring all services back in – house.
- Demand that Welsh Government provides adequate funding for this and future years. Campaign for sufficient funding to restore the services cut since 2013 as a minimum.

Swansea trades council will be calling on trade unionists in Swansea to join a lobby of the full council meeting which will vote on the budget proposals on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to demand a legal needs - led budget for 2023/24 as per Wales TUC conference policy.



Wales National Pool Swansea  
Pwll Cenedlaethol Cymru Abertawe

## Swansea Council Budget Proposals 2023 – Public Consultation Response

### on behalf of Wales National Pool Swansea (WNPS)

The response provided below refers to the budget proposal relating to Wales National Pool Swansea (WNPS) i.e. *“We propose to review the current funding arrangements post December 2023 when the current arrangements cease”*.

WNPS, its staff and its board of directors, fully understands the current financial pressures that Swansea Council is facing. We also understand why Swansea Council are proposing to review the current funding arrangements for WNPS as it could offer a cost saving opportunity for the Council.

WNPS have substantial concerns that if the Council were to withdraw their support for the pool and stop their current funding arrangement then this would have a significant negative impact on the ability of WNPS to continue operating in its current state and put at risk the provision of swimming we currently provide to the University, Swansea, and the people of Wales. Ultimately, we believe it could directly lead to the closure of the pool in its current state.

Since opening in 2003, Wales National Pool Swansea has been an important and successful asset for the Region, delivering a performance base for over twenty Olympians and Paralympians, attracting more than 5 million visitors, hosting a range of major international events, providing a home for a wide array of community groups, and supporting in excess of 25,000 children and adults from our community to learn to swim. This is vitally important for the city of Swansea as it is surrounded by coastline and rivers. These achievements are a direct result of the unique partnership between Swansea Council and Swansea University. Without such a partnership WNPS would have never come into existence and would not have been able to function as a world class aquatic center for the past 20 years.

Even though the pool currently operates at a loss to both Swansea University and Swansea Council, it is well documented in the industry (and was recognized by both Partners when the pool was built and the current funding model agreed) that Olympic swimming pools, in isolation, are not commercially sustainable, and require ongoing financial subsidy to run. WNPS supports the sporting ambition of the University, the City of Swansea, and the whole of Wales. It also raises the profile of Swansea, services our local population, attracts investment to the area and helps to make Swansea the vibrant, attractive city it is.

If the pool were to close or be unable to operate in its current state this would have a very real negative impact on the area and its population. It would limit potential investment in the city and the University, make the University a less attractive destination for potential students, severely impact the world class programs that Swim Wales and Sport Wales are able to offer,



and would have a very damaging impact on the health and wellbeing of our local population, particularly those people of all ages who want to learn to swim and be able to enjoy all our amazing beaches and coastline without fear of water and the sea. It would also put at risk the ambition of both the University and the Council to make Swansea the 'capital of sport' within Wales.

The current partnership arrangements for WNPS, between Swansea Council and Swansea University, finishes on Sunday 24th of December 2023. If either of the current partners were to withdraw their funding for the pool, it is the belief of the board of directors, senior management, and staff of WNPS, that the pool could face a significant risk of either closure, or at the very least redevelopment of the facility in its current state to reduce operating costs.

WNPS currently has over a hundred employees. Our staff are a professional, committed, and loyal team, many of whom have worked at the facility since it opened 20 years ago. The team are aware and very anxious about the ending of the current partnership arrangements and are very conscious of the fact that were the Council to end their partnership with the pool, then they will face the very real threat of job losses and redundancies. These job losses, coupled with the effects on the wider supply chain within the University and the surrounding area, would have a very real negative impact on the local economy and our people.

WNPS, and everyone who works within the pool and on behalf of the pool, is fully committed to working with both Swansea Council and Swansea University to explore options on how we can improve efficiencies across our business models, strategy and operational processes. This may include new ways of working, improving our current operating model, investing in green energy to reduce future operating costs, creating new strategic partnerships with other third-party organisations, and developing a strategy that is aligned with the long-term vision and strategy of both Swansea Council and Swansea University. We want to continue working with both the Council and University to achieve this.

The board of WNPS strongly urges Swansea Council to commit to their partnership with Swansea University beyond December 2023. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss the future of WNPS in greater detail with Swansea Council and its representatives and commit to working with the Council to find a future operating model that works for everyone and brings true benefit to the city of Swansea and the surrounding area.

Greg Garner, Chair Wales National Pool Swansea, on behalf of the Board of Directors, Senior Management and staff of WNPS.

*Greg Garner*

Amgueddfa Cymru  
Parc Cathays  
Caerdydd  
CF10 3NP  
Ffôn: 0300 111 2 333

Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NP  
Tel: 0300 111 2 333

25/01/2023

**Amgueddfa Cymru response to Swansea Council budget proposal:**

*The Council currently contributes around £650,000 of funding to the National Waterfront Museum per year which makes up 35% of the total funding for this venue. We propose to review the current funding arrangements and look to reduce the Council's contribution by £100,000 a year for the next 3 years.*

On behalf of Amgueddfa Cymru-Museum Wales (AC) I wish to respond to this proposal by making the following observations:

1. If this proposal were to be adopted by Swansea Council (SC), this would be in breach of the 25-year Operational Agreement between Amgueddfa Cymru and Swansea Council, signed on 6 October 2005. This agreement was brokered by the (then) Heritage Lottery Fund as a condition of their grant of c.£11.5m towards the building and fit-out of the museum.

Clause 3.1 of this agreement states:

*'...this Agreement shall continue for a period of 25 years from 6th October 2005 and thereafter until such time as terminated by either NMGW [Amgueddfa Cymru] or the [Swansea] Council giving no less than two years' notice in writing to the other parties, such notice to expire on an Anniversary Date of this Agreement and not to be given prior to the twenty third Anniversary Date.'*

As the Agreement was signed in October 2005, the 23rd Anniversary Date referred to here would fall on 6 October 2028.

2. The creation of the National Waterfront Museum between 1999 and 2005 was a project costing almost £34m. The funding for this came from a number of public organisations, which invested in the project with the assurance of the 25-year agreement between Amgueddfa Cymru and Swansea Council. If this agreement were to be ended then it is likely that some of these organisations could request a proportionate re-imburement of their contributions, which totalled around £19m.
3. If the proposed reduction in its share of funding by Swansea Council commences in April 2023, there is no time for Amgueddfa Cymru to respond to this cut to the operating budget in its upcoming financial year. Nor is there time for the partners and their holding charitable company, NWMS Ltd, to explore alternative sources of support to maintain the operation the museum under the terms of the agreement.
4. It is noted that Swansea Council will be meeting with Amgueddfa Cymru in early February to discuss the implications of this proposal and explore resolution collaboratively.



Janice Lane: Director of Visitor Experience

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu â ni yn Gymraeg, byddwn yn eich ateb yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd yn arwain at oedi.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh and we will answer you in Welsh. This will not lead to any delay.



Cofnogr gan  
Lywodraeth Cymru  
Supported by  
Welsh Government

Llywydd Dros Dro | Acting President - Dr Carol Bell PhD DLitt FLSW FSA  
Trysorydd | Treasurer – Hywel John FCA  
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol | Director General – David Anderson OBE

Rhif elusen | Charity number - 525774  
Rhif TAW | VAT number – GB 783 4541 10

**Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Statement for Swansea Council’s Budget 2023/24**

**1. Introduction**

This statement provides an overall view of the budget IIA process for the Council, along with any specific relevant details for 2023/24.

The budget is set for the council’s operation which covers a wide range of services delivered to the citizens of Swansea. This includes both providing and commissioning of services from other organisations and agencies.

We, like other local authorities, will be facing a reduction in budgets every year for the foreseeable future. We also need to manage increased expectation and demand for services and financial pressures in a number of areas across the Council.

The council has faced unprecedented financial pressures over the last few years due to government budget reductions, increased demand for services and extra costs such as teachers’ pay and pensions. We think our funding from Welsh Government, whilst substantially positive this year, will not increase our immediate real terms spending power, nor is it likely to increase significantly in future years. This means we will continue to have less to spend in real terms at a time when demand for services like social care is rising. The result of this is a need to find savings of £24.839m in 2023/24 next year and roughly a further £50m savings over the next three years.

Change is already taking place and over the last few years the council has cut costs by being more efficient and more effective in what we do. But this is not enough to meet the scale of cuts and ensure council services are sustainable and fit for the future. Clearly, the sheer amount of savings required means that difficult decisions and potential impacts are inevitable. However, we continue to focus on mitigating any adverse impacts via our IIA process as well as officer expertise.

During 2020, the authority updated and replaced the ‘Sustainable Swansea - Fit for the Future’ strategy with the new ‘Swansea – Achieving Better Together’ transformation strategy and programme framework as a means of setting Council priorities, transforming services and addressing current and future deficits.

In November 2022 there was a further report to Cabinet detailing the Council’s transformation strategy, vision and goals for 2022 – 2027.

The Council has adopted a number of Budget Principles that underpin the budget strategy:

<i>Everything is included</i>	<i>Increased income</i>
<i>Engagement</i>	<i>Different models of delivery</i>

<i>We will have less money</i>	<i>Supporting those at risk</i>
<i>Demonstrating efficiency</i>	<i>Evidence base</i>
<i>Cutting Red Tape</i>	<i>Sustainable outcomes/prevention</i>
<i>Full cost recovery</i>	<i>Personal Responsibility</i>

All Services must apply and be consistent with these Budget Principles. All Services are also required to address these Principles as part of business planning and developing savings proposals.

In terms of equality, the council is committed to protecting the vital frontline services that matter most to the people of Swansea, tackling poverty and looking after the most vulnerable in our communities. This will continue, although services may be delivered in different ways in future.

## **2. The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process**

The council has had an EIA process in place for a number of years which was reviewed in 2021 and replaced with Integrated Impact Assessments (IIA). The process covers:

- The nine protected characteristics covered by the Equality Act 2010
- The Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales
- Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015
- Consultation and engagement
- Poverty and social exclusion
- Welsh language
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)
- Carers
- Community cohesion
- Human rights principles.

In order to apply the IIA process, officers follow these steps:

- An initial screening exercise (to identify whether a full IIA report is necessary)
- Completion of a full IIA report (where required)
- Quality assurance and feedback
- Sign off at Head of Service level

- Publication on the Council's website alongside the relevant report
- Review.

Officers have access to dedicated departmental support from members of the Access to Services Team who co-ordinate the quality assurance of IIAs whilst also offering advice and guidance.

The process does not change for specific budget proposals. All year 1 proposals have completed an IIA screening form and these have been provided to Cabinet for consideration.

### **3. Assessing impact**

Due to both the nature of the proposals being considered and the regulatory framework around IIAs, many now take a number of months to reach a conclusion. The budget planning process operates over a 3-year period, with many proposals being considered, designed and altered prior to implementation over this time period.

Officers are always advised to undertake the initial screening as early as they can, with (if required) a full IIA report then opened as soon as possible. This is then completed as proposals are worked through and means that we are now working on budget IIAs throughout the year.

As a result, the assessment of impact is not a one-off exercise – it is a continuing process.

To ensure an ongoing rigorous process, the following elements are of note:

- Where officers have concerns and/or queries, meetings are held with the Access to Services Team to look at both the proposal and the IIA
- IIA reports are often added to over a period of time, e.g. following consultation and engagement activities, following changes to the detail of proposals
- Quality assurance is carried out by officers with expertise in the areas of equality, Welsh language, poverty and the UNCRC
- Where a proposal has potential adverse impacts, officers utilise the IIA process to focus on mitigation
- Where a proposal has potential adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated, the IIA is referred to senior managers for attention and consideration.

In addition, with a number of both commissioning and other reviews underway across the organisation, the total or overall impact of the proposed budget is difficult to fully assess at any point of implementation, particularly with the IIA process being a continuing feature as proposals are further developed.

Therefore, we will continue to publish each IIA report with the relevant corporate report at: <http://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1&LLL=0?Lang=eng>

### **4. Consultation and engagement**

Whilst there is a specific regulation around engagement (contained within the Public Sector Equality Duty for Wales), our 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together' strategy contains a substantial emphasis on consultation and engagement too.

Corporate budget consultation takes place on the proposed budget as a whole, and when needed, a wide variety of specific proposals. Others specific proposals are consulted on using service-specific groups and/or activities if required.

Corporately, the consultation results are reported separately via the budget reports themselves.

## 5. Local information

The Council delivers services to all the citizens of the City & County of Swansea. The Council delivers services to all the citizens of the City & County of Swansea. The overall population profile from the latest population estimates (2021) and 2021 Census is as follows:

- Within an overall population of **237,800**, the gender split of the **City & County of Swansea** is **50.7% Female** (120,700 people) and **49.3% Male** (117,100 people).
- Children and young people **aged 0-25 years** represent **31.0%** of the population, or **73,700** people.
- **Over 50s** represent **40.2%** of the population (95,500 people), of which around **49,200** are over 65 (20.7% of the total population).
- In 2021, **8.6%** of the total population of Swansea (around **20,400** people) came from an ethnic minority background. In terms of religion, **11,300** people (**4.7%** of the population) belonged to non-Christian faiths with **47.3%** (112,700 people) having no religion.
- **22.4% (53,500 people)** were disabled under the Equality Act in 2021 **6.3%** of those aged 16+ (**12,500 people**) were economically inactive due to long term sickness or disability.
- There were **26,000** Welsh speakers in Swansea in 2021, or **11.2%** of the population aged 3+. **42,500** people (18.3%) had one or more skills in Welsh.

Further information about Swansea's population can be found at [www.swansea.gov.uk/keyfacts](http://www.swansea.gov.uk/keyfacts)

Officers consider the particular service users or groups affected when applying the IIA process.

## 6. Staffing

The Cabinet report in December 2022 referred to 68 posts at risk throughout the Authority, not including any impact in schools (this figure has since reduced). Heads of Service have been provided with the same advice as in previous years that where post is at risk consideration should be given as to whether there is any potential adverse impact and to follow the IIA process. Unions to minimise the number of compulsory redundancies in the future.

The groups of staff likely to be most at risk (no options can be ruled out at this stage) are those affected by service savings in Corporate Services, Finance and Place.

Consultation will take place with the Trade Unions as required and any issues raised will be considered.

Based on current information it is anticipated that there will be some changes to the staffing figures as a result of:

- ERVR applications
- Not filling vacant posts
- Flexible Working requests, i.e. reduced hours
- Flexible Retirement
- Redeployment
- Bumped redundancies
- Residual very limited risk of compulsory redundancies but work to mitigate this to the absolute minimum continues

These figures will be updated on an ongoing basis.

HR & OD are constantly working with redeployees to secure them alternative positions. Employees at risk, i.e. those who have not been served notice, can also be considered for redeployment.

In addition, all posts are placed on the list of posts for employees at risk in the first instance. Director and CMT approval is required in order for the posts to be advertised either on the Vacancy Bulletin or externally.

## **7. Publication Arrangements**

All IIA reports will be published as they are finalised. As mentioned earlier in this statement, due to the nature of many of the proposals this is likely to take time as assessment of impact continues to be undertaken as proposals are further developed.

## **8. Conclusion**

We know from previous years that, due to the scale of budget reductions, those with protected characteristics are likely to be affected. In assessing the impact of the budget proposals, we continue to attempt to ensure that any effect is not disproportionate and that we continue to focus on mitigation wherever possible. In this context the following should be noted:

- where IIAs show potential significant impact with no possible mitigation, these proposals will be referred for further consideration
- for those IIAs where potential significant impact has been identified and mitigation has been possible, the associated action plans will be monitored and reviewed

- the outcomes of engagement will inform IIAs
- this is an ongoing process and as noted this statement and many IIAs will remain open for varying periods of time
- there is a focus on the council doing things differently in order to further deliver services that are flexible, people-centred, meet individual needs and are sustainable for the future.

The council continues to deliver a wide range of services for all the citizens of Swansea. Many of these are of particular benefit to the areas covered by our IIA process, e.g. the protected characteristics defined within the Equality Act 2010.

As highlighted earlier in this statement, the council is committed to protecting the vital frontline services that matter most to the people of Swansea, tackling poverty and looking after the most vulnerable in our communities. The council will continue to do everything it can to meet this challenging commitment given the financial constraints it faces. However, services may be provided in a different way in line with 'Swansea – Achieving Better Together'.



## Response of the Schools Budget Forum



**Ysgol Pen-Y-Bryn**  
Head Teacher - Mr Gethin Sutton  
Primary and Secondary Campus - Glasbury Road, Morriston, Swansea SA6 7PA  
Post 16 Campus - Heol Frank, Penlan, Swansea, SA5 7AH  
Telephone: 01792 799064 Email: pen-y-bryn.school@swansea-edunet.gov.uk



Councillor Rob Stewart  
City and County of Swansea  
Civic Centre  
Oystermouth Road  
Swansea  
SA1 3SN

18.01.2023

Dear Councillor Stewart,

### School Budget Forum Response to Budget Consultation

As always, the School Budget Forum has sought to support the discussions that have already been held and which will be held over the coming weeks. **As a statutory consultative body, the Forum expects that the points made will be carefully considered as part of any forthcoming corporate discussion of future revenue and capital budgets.** The School Budget Forum represents a considerable body of statutory provision meeting the needs of a great many pupils, families, schools and communities within Swansea.

The School Budget Forum recognises the scale of the continuing financial challenges facing the Council. Nevertheless, it has a responsibility to seek to ensure that the full implications of any budget proposals on schools and the wider education service are properly recognised by the Council before any decisions are taken.

We would suggest that the Council should take a very positive view of the outcomes achieved by schools in Swansea against the backdrop of the continuing challenges that have resulted from the global health crisis and national 'cost of living' concerns. Whilst recognising the challenges facing the council, learners' entitlement, experience and outcomes should not be jeopardised by forthcoming Council budget decisions.

Swansea schools do not fare well financially. As has been noted in previous years, the Council can do nothing about the fact that the settlement it receives from the Welsh Government is relatively poor, ranking it around 17/18<sup>th</sup> out of the 22 local authorities. The Forum is appreciative of the council's continuing relative prioritisation

of education spending which showed a net revenue increase of 6.8% in 2022-23 above the national average increase of 5.5% (Source: Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin 7 July 2022 SB 16/2022).

Schools' delegated funding within Swansea is lower than that of both of our Partneriaeth partner authorities, thus putting the city's schools at a disadvantage when compared with our regional partners. The Forum urges the council to lobby Welsh Government for a more equitable national funding formula for local authorities (and hence schools). The Forum recognises the council's commitment to the delegation of funding to schools with a delegation rate of 83.9% (87.6% excluding home to school transport) being the 5<sup>th</sup> highest of the 22 Welsh councils. However, per pupil budgeted education spending in Swansea is lower than 17 of the 22 Welsh councils and is £176 below the Welsh average (Source: Welsh Government Statistical Bulletin 7 July 2022 SB 16/2022).

It would be remiss of the Forum not to point out the impact of the global pandemic (much of which may not be fully visible for years to come), an exponential rise in energy costs, significant inflationary pressures and the resultant cost of living crisis.

The result being that despite a better than anticipated settlement and cash increase to both the Council budget and the proposed education budget, there remains a gap between this cash increase and cost pressures, requiring a significant draw on Council and school reserves. For schools, in spite of approximately £10M of cash uplift and a percentage of the Council wide £15M economic fund to meet the increase in energy costs, there remains a **real terms decrease** of around 2.2%. The Forum has concern that these pressures will increase and have a greater negative impact in years two and three of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

We have appreciated the positive response in Council Budgets over recent years to some of the recommendations previously made by the Forum, particularly:

- The recognition of the essential contribution of the Education service to the achievement of wider Council priorities
- The recognition of the severe financial pressures facing school delegated budgets and other statutory Education services

Through working closely with the Authority, schools have been better able to manage the significant pressures and increasing expectations placed upon them and to mitigate the effects of large scale redundancies on the Council.

The Forum recognises the positive work undertaken by the School Finance Group and the School Funding and Information Team (SFIT) in revising school funding formulas enabling SFIT to more swiftly calculate indicative school budgets.

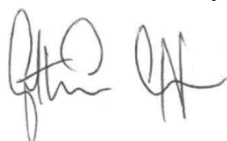
The Forum views positively the Council's stated aims of relative prioritisation of the delegated schools budget and welcomes the proposals made by the Leader in his presentation to headteachers in December. Furthermore the Forum appreciates the transparency and clarity of budgetary information the Forum receives from the Director of Finance & S151 Officer.

The Forum shares the council's belief that we must together keep up the pressure on both governments and continue to press for both fairer and better funding for education. This needs to be in two parts; firstly, the UK government needs to ensure Welsh Government is fairly funded; secondly, Welsh Government needs to address the inequity of funding for local government and secure a fairer funding model for education.

Future funding settlements must fully fund the significant areas of unavoidable cost pressures facing education services, as indeed must any future Welsh Government Budget. Decisions made by the UK or Welsh Governments that result in additional cost pressures for schools, must be wholly funded and maintained in base budget settlements. These would include teacher and other pay awards (including increases in the national minimum wage), teacher pension cost increases, changes to free school meal entitlement, revised ALN legislation against a context of already spiralling expectations of support for pupils with additional learning needs, as well as the impact of more general demographic trends. There also needs to be a more appropriate balance between the base education funding available through the revenue support grant and the increasing range of specific grants, many of which arrive late in the financial year, and all of which have their own terms and conditions. The percentage of education and schools' funding that grants currently represent is too high. However well-intentioned, such funding is inevitably time-limited, often inappropriately, with specific terms and conditions for use, and inevitably short-term focused. This method of providing funding is uncertain, inefficient and does not enable effective financial planning in the medium or longer term. Without equitable and adequate base funding for core statutory education provision, it is also potentially ineffective.

**We share the council's commitment to fight for a better deal for education and welcome the assurance to continue to prioritise education within the council's budget and pass on all new monies made available for schools or education by either government.**

Yours sincerely



**Gethin Sutton**  
Chair of Swansea Budget Forum



Believe it! Achieve it!

## Revenue Budget 2023/2024

**Corporate Services**

	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £</b>	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £</b>
<b>Corporate Services Directorate</b>		
Director of Corporate Services	150,000	191,800
	<b>150,000</b>	<b>191,800</b>
<b>Chief Legal Officer</b>		
Coroners	789,600	790,900
Democratic Services	3,075,000	3,259,400
Information Governance Unit	182,200	171,400
Legal Services	2,431,500	2,516,300
Overview and Scrutiny Unit	222,700	182,700
Welsh Translation Unit	325,600	286,600
	<b>7,026,600</b>	<b>7,207,300</b>
<b>Head of Digital &amp; Customer Services</b>		
Customer Services & Complaints	987,800	1,038,300
Digital Services	9,537,900	7,050,600
	<b>10,525,700</b>	<b>8,088,900</b>
<b>Head of Communications &amp; Marketing</b>		
Access to Services	111,300	118,600
Human Rights	44,200	47,100
Communications	457,000	458,700
Corporate Marketing	278,700	267,800
Corporate Mgt Team Support	420,400	322,400
Design and Print	216,700	-76,300
Health and Safety	1,129,200	1,193,500
Strategic Delivery Unit	766,465	667,800
	<b>3,423,965</b>	<b>2,999,600</b>
<b>Head of Human Resources &amp; Service Centre</b>		
Human Resources & Organisational Development	1,113,500	776,300
Service Centre	2,330,500	2,176,100
	<b>3,444,000</b>	<b>2,952,400</b>
<b>Total Corporate Services</b>	<b>24,570,265</b>	<b>21,440,000</b>

# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Finance

	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £</b>	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £</b>
<b>Deputy Section 151 Officer</b>		
Audit	724,600	739,000
Finance DMT	505,400	972,200
Accountancy	1,367,600	1,412,400
Pensions	46,800	98,200
Treasury and Technical	642,700	583,000
	<b>3,287,100</b>	<b>3,804,800</b>
<b>Head of Revenues &amp; Benefits</b>		
Revenues	861,500	949,000
Benefits	3,364,400	3,711,800
Council Tax Reduction Scheme	24,553,000	24,512,000
	<b>28,778,900</b>	<b>29,172,800</b>
<b>Head of Commercial Services</b>		
Commercial Team & Procurement	704,000	760,400
	<b>704,000</b>	<b>760,400</b>
<b>Total Finance</b>	<b>32,770,000</b>	<b>33,738,000</b>

# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Social Services

	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £
<b>Adult Services and Tackling Poverty</b>		
External Domiciliary Care	3,661,700	5,105,856
Internal Staffing and Services - Hubs	3,383,900	4,024,009
Internal Staffing and Services - Other	2,242,500	4,046,965
Internal Staffing and Services - Service Provision	13,290,750	13,110,987
MH LD Complex Care	21,379,600	23,547,057
Tackling Poverty Service	813,400	1,027,092
Third Party Spend	1,368,000	1,349,719
	<b>46,139,850</b>	<b>52,211,685</b>
<b>Child &amp; Family Services</b>		
Adolescent and Young People's Services	2,298,500	2,867,443
Adoption Services	2,126,900	2,014,881
Care & Support Services	6,969,100	6,458,705
Commissioned Services	1,647,300	2,763,114
Commissioned Services - Gower Activity	117,700	152,550
Commissioning and Care Services	5,907,600	7,270,817
Commissioning and Care Services (Fostering)	7,685,400	8,386,362
Commissioning and Care Services (Independent Placements)	10,729,000	9,878,000
Early Help and Single Point of Contact	985,200	1,135,054
Family Support Services	1,527,200	1,798,900
Internal Staffing and Services	5,936,700	5,046,514
Therapy	695,800	752,776
	<b>46,626,400</b>	<b>48,525,116</b>
<b>Grants, Commissioning &amp; Partnerships</b>		
Commissioned Services	2,395,335	2,772,051
Internal Staffing and Services	646,400	1,178,517
	<b>3,041,735</b>	<b>3,950,568</b>
<b>Integrated Services for Older People</b>		
External Domiciliary Care	9,731,000	10,994,986
External Residential Care	19,971,450	21,897,299
Internal Staffing and Services - Homecare	6,092,250	5,827,487
Internal Staffing and Services - Hubs	6,669,300	4,470,414
Internal Staffing and Services - Other	1,086,550	2,371,162
	<b>43,550,550</b>	<b>45,561,348</b>
<b>Resources Hub</b>		
Internal Staffing and Services	5,969,200	6,726,283
	<b>5,969,200</b>	<b>6,726,283</b>
<b>Total Social Services</b>	<b>145,327,735</b>	<b>156,975,000</b>

# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Education

	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £
<b>Delegated Schools</b>		
School Cost Centres	179,045,900	189,670,000
	<b>179,045,900</b>	<b>189,670,000</b>
<b>Director of Education</b>		
Mgt & Admin Effectiveness	159,000	163,500
Schools At Risk	109,000	109,000
	<b>268,000</b>	<b>272,500</b>
<b>Head of Achievement &amp; Partnership Service</b>		
Education Improvement Service	974,500	963,700
Management Systems Unit	542,500	251,400
Welsh Service	0	0
	<b>1,517,000</b>	<b>1,215,100</b>
<b>Head of Vulnerable Learner Service</b>		
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Team	0	0
Behaviour, Learning Support & EOTAS	6,097,300	5,996,200
Cleaning Services	225,400	254,900
Ethnic Minority Achievement Unit	0	0
Miscellaneous Grants	215,400	228,500
Psychology Service	698,300	717,900
Recoupment/Out of County	761,000	761,000
School And Governor Unit	411,900	428,800
School Meals	1,177,600	1,840,300
SEN Statementing & Support	5,944,700	5,698,900
STF Additional Hours	1,090,700	1,092,300
Swansea Music Service	0	0
Transport	8,613,100	8,848,100
Welfare Service	507,500	522,600
	<b>25,742,900</b>	<b>26,389,500</b>

# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Education

	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £</b>	<b>ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £</b>
<b>Head of Education Planning &amp; Resources</b>		
Additional School Support	78,100	78,100
Broadband & Cloud Technology	274,900	274,900
Capital Planning & Delivery Unit	346,700	386,600
Continuing Education & Pensions	418,700	409,300
Education Improvement Grant for Schools	714,000	714,000
Empty Properties	17,900	17,900
FIU Funding and Information Unit	0	0
Funding & Information Unit	200,000	164,600
Health & Safety	84,500	84,500
Learning Portal Team	40,400	41,400
Management & Admin-Planning & Resources	101,300	104,200
Non Delegated - Pensions, Insurance & Public Duties	6,669,475	9,751,450
Post 16 Funding	-5,279,500	-5,920,420
Pupil Deprivation Grant	-8,462,375	-9,598,030
Stakeholder Engagement Unit	262,100	421,400
	<b>-4,533,800</b>	<b>-3,070,100</b>
<b>Total Education</b>	<b>202,040,000</b>	<b>214,477,000</b>



# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Place

	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £
<b>Head of Building Services</b>		
Property Preventative Maintenance	2,861,800	2,873,500
Building Services Trading	1,539,300	1,624,300
	<b>4,401,100</b>	<b>4,497,800</b>
<b>Head of Property Services</b>		
Facilities Management	2,025,685	2,198,401
Strategic Estates Properties	752,023	550,500
	<b>2,777,708</b>	<b>2,748,901</b>
<b>Head of Highways &amp; Transportation</b>		
Car Parking and Enforcement	-3,054,700	-3,709,500
Transportation	5,197,400	5,417,000
Traffic Management	1,252,900	1,338,200
Central Transport	-619,600	-483,800
Engineering	610,175	693,675
Highways	8,922,425	7,740,725
Swansea Marina	-171,960	-172,260
Directorate and Other Costs	-361,800	-503,700
	<b>11,774,840</b>	<b>10,320,340</b>
<b>Head of Waste Cleansing &amp; Parks</b>		
Household Waste Recycling Centres	1,563,434	1,635,734
Parks	4,619,926	5,038,686
Recycling and Residual Waste Collection	11,789,121	12,344,921
Trade Refuse	-424,155	-368,955
Neighbourhood Working	6,752,464	6,864,614
Directorate and Other Costs	729,000	806,600
	<b>25,029,790</b>	<b>26,321,600</b>
<b>Place Directorate</b>		
Place Directorate	4,309,728	1,357,119
Arena	-326,500	-282,300
Temporary COVID Impacts	6,000,000	0
Workstreams	-828,200	-828,200
	<b>9,155,028</b>	<b>246,619</b>

# Revenue Budget 2023/2024

## Place

	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2022/2023 £	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2023/2024 £
<b>Head of Cultural Services</b>		
Archives	215,350	250,550
Arts	2,393,910	2,227,099
Community Buildings	355,100	325,000
Development and Outreach	283,400	336,000
Libraries	3,162,600	3,352,400
Sport and Recreation	2,997,526	2,751,160
Tourism, Marketing & Events	1,985,600	1,824,968
Directorate and Other Costs	439,743	190,300
	<b>11,833,229</b>	<b>11,257,477</b>
<b>Head of Planning &amp; City Regeneration</b>		
Business Support	618,419	675,519
Property Development	1,256,398	733,698
City Centre Management & Indoor Market	-39,600	-342,800
European & External Funding Team	1,705,000	0
Major Projects, Design and Conservation	132,500	154,900
Planning Control	542,031	525,200
Planning Policy and Environment	1,109,864	1,151,300
Directorate and Other Costs	152,483	102,183
	<b>5,477,095</b>	<b>3,000,000</b>
<b>Head of Housing &amp; Public Health</b>		
Building Regulations	153,200	161,350
Burials and Cremations	-1,180,553	-1,283,750
Food Safety	695,900	619,390
Licensing	-30,100	-43,500
Pollution	644,600	632,900
Public Health	856,600	904,300
Registrars	-76,150	-67,950
Trading Standards	602,700	703,710
Housing Grants to the Independent Sector	40,500	40,500
Housing Renewals and Adaptations	84,300	12,800
Housing Strategy, Advice and Support	1,799,813	1,850,013
Other Housing Services	527,500	553,900
Directorate and Other Costs	233,900	204,600
	<b>4,352,210</b>	<b>4,288,263</b>
<b>Total Place</b>	<b>74,801,000</b>	<b>62,681,000</b>

# Agenda Item 10.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Revenue Budget 2023/24

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report proposes a Revenue Budget for 2023/24 for the Housing Revenue Account
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Members, Finance, & Legal
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The revenue budget proposals as detailed in section 4 be approved.
<b>Report Authors:</b>	Carol Morgan / Ben Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Peter Keys
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Adrian Jeremiah
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

1.1 The setting of the revenue budget has to take account of the following issues and factors:-

- the requirement to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS);
- the requirements of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016
- the funding requirements of the More Homes Programme;
- future income and expenditure trends;
- the Welsh Governments rents policy;
- cost efficiencies and value for money

1.2 The proposals in this report are based on the objective of maximising the resources available for investment in the housing stock to meet Council priorities including maintaining the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS), to reduce carbon emissions and to build affordable housing in line with the More Homes Programme. These investment priorities have been carefully balanced against consideration of affordability of rents and other service charges for tenants.

## **2. Projected Revenue Outturn 2022/23**

- 2.1 Rent arrears have been closely monitored and are anticipated to increase by the end of the financial year due to the impacts of the cost of living crisis and energy bill increases. However, these increases have been budgeted for and the current level of Bad Debt Provision is anticipated to be sufficient.
- 2.2 Revenue repairs spend has been monitored and it is forecast that there will be an overspend of £0.42m for day to day repairs as a result of higher than anticipated building inflation and dealing with the backlog of repairs due to Covid. Day to day voids are forecast to overspend by £0.3m and an additional resource in the form of a new contractor has been sourced, in an attempt to reduce the number of void properties. A further £1.150m increase in 22/23 will be required due to the decreased period in electrical testing (currently every 10 years, new legislation reduces this to every 5 years).
- 2.3 Employee budgets are forecast to be overspent by £0.3455m now that the flat rate pay award has been implemented.
- 2.4 All of the above anticipated overspends will be offset by a reduction in the Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) transfer of £7.6m as a result of slippage in the Capital Programme.

## **3. Rent Income**

- 3.1 The introduction of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 means that additional notice is required to be given to tenants for any increase in rents. As a result, the rent setting for 2023/24 has been subject to a separate report.
- 3.2 In January 2023 Council approved an average rent increase of 6.5% in line with Welsh Government rents policy. The report also proposed an increase in general fees, charges and allowances of 6.5% in line with the agreed rent increase.

## **4. Revenue Budget Proposals 2023/24**

### *4.1 Overview*

- 4.1.1 In line with the requirements of the Welsh Government's Rents Policy, budgets have been examined and where possible savings have been identified.
- 4.1.2 The main budget increases from 2022/23 are an increase in revenue repairs costs of £4.49m as a result of the inflationary pressures set out in 4.2 below. An increase in employee costs of £1.61m to fund pay increases for 22/23 and to account for a forecast increase for 23/24. An increase in the Revenue Contribution to Capital (RCCO) of £1.58m, increases in utility budgets of £0.95m as a result of a significant increase in energy costs and an increase of £0.4m for the provision for bad debts.

4.1.3 The main budget savings are a reduction in the finance cost of borrowing of £323k as a result of lower than forecast borrowing due to slippage on the Capital Programme in 22/23 and a reduction in printing and postage costs of £60k as a result of removing budget provision made for additional costs for the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 in 22/23.

4.1.4 The main changes to funding/income are an increase in rent income of £4.77m arising from the approved rent increase and £402k from increases in other charges including charges for furnished tenancies and some sheltered service charges. There is a reduction of £75k in income as the NSU no longer provides alarm and other services to local Housing Associations and a £35k reduction in Court Cost income.

4.1.5 The main changes from the 2022/23 budget are shown in the following table:-

<b>Item</b>	<b>£000</b>
Increase in Revenue Repairs	4,489
Increase in Employee Costs	1,613
Increase in Revenue Contribution to Capital	1,579
Increase in Utilities Costs	954
Increase in the Provision for Bad Debts	400
Reduction in Income from NSU Services & Court Costs	110
Reduction in Other Housing Management Costs	-67
Reduction Finance Costs	-323
Increase in Transfer from Reserves	-3,580
Additional income including 6.5% rent increase and increases in other charges	-5,175

4.1.6 Income is expected to exceed expenditure next year by £25.5m. This amount together with a contribution from reserves of £3.58m be used to contribute towards the capital programme of £50.85m in 2023/24 in order to maintain prudent levels of borrowing whilst meeting the investment priorities which are needed to maintain the WHQS and for the More Homes Programme.

#### 4.2 *Inflation*

There are significant inflationary pressures on the HRA budget for 2023/2024. The 2022/23 budget included a 3% increase for pay increases. The actual agreed figure for 22/23 was a flat rate increase of £1,925 an average increase of between 7% and 8%. For 2023/24 a similar increase has been budgeted for. Revenue Repairs budgets have also been increased as a result of high building industry inflation and increased demand due to a back log of repairs due to Covid. In addition, void repairs budgets have been increased. Energy costs have also seen a significant rise in 23/24. Some other budgets, have also been amended to reflect a significant increase in prices.

#### 4.3 *Capital Financing Charges*

Capital financing charges will reduce in 2023/24 as a result of the lower than forecast borrowing in previous years.

4.4 *Contributions to the Capital Programme*  
The additional income enables a contribution of £29.9m to the capital programme.

## **5. Risks and Uncertainties**

5.1 The main risks and uncertainties for next year are the ongoing impact of the economic crisis particularly regarding levels of rental income and rising costs due to inflation.

## **6. Reserves**

6.1 As a result of lower than forecast RCCO and additional capital grant funding in 22/23, the HRA predicted reserves balance at the start of the year will be £9.981m. This is higher than the level of reserves which is considered prudent and therefore £3,579k of reserves will be used to finance capital expenditure in 2023/24. The reserves position is detailed in Table B.

## **7. Integrated Assessment Implications**

7.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

7.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

7.4 An IIA screening form has been completed and reviewed. The agreed outcome was that a full IIA report is not required at this time. Proposals for changing levels of funding in specific areas have been subject to a screening process. Service managers have considered the implications of proposed budgetary decisions and believe that the proposed budget protects the most vulnerable and will not disproportionately impact on protected groups.

## **8. Legal Implications**

8.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 - Table A: Summarised HRA 2022/23 to 2023/24

- Table B: Movement in Balances 2022/23 to 2023/24

Appendix 2 – Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

## Appendix 1

**Table A: Summarised HRA 2022/23 to 2023/24**

Classification	Budget 2022/23	Budget 2023/24
	£'000	£'000
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Management and Maintenance	33,404	40,907
Capital Charges	10,444	10,121
Revenue Funding for capital schemes	28,320	29,899
Increase in Balances	2	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>72,170</b>	<b>80,927</b>
<u>Income</u>		
Rents and other income	71,824	77,003
Affordable Housing Grant	346	346
Contribution from in Balances	0	-3,578
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>72,170</b>	<b>80,927</b>

**Table B: Movement in Reserves 2022/23 to 2023/24**

Description	£000's
Actual balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	-5,239
Budgeted increase 22/23	-2
<b>Budgeted balance 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>-5,241</b>
Forecast change 2022/23	-4,740
<b>Forecast balance 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023</b>	<b>-9,981</b>
Budgeted change 2023/24	3,579
<b>Forecast balance 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>-6,402</b>



## Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

### Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Housing and Public Health

Directorate: Place

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

This report proposes a HRA Revenue Budget for 2023/24

### Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

The setting of the revenue budget has to take account of the following issues and factors:-

- the requirement to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS);
- the funding requirements of the More Homes Programme;
- future income and expenditure trends;
- increases in rent in line with the Welsh Government rent policy;
- cost efficiencies and value for money

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes  No

b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?

Yes  No

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes  No

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes  No

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

---

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes       No      **If yes, please provide details below**

Building Services, Legal, Finance

---

**Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

Proposals for changing levels of funding in specific areas have been subject to a screening process. Service managers have considered the implications of proposed budgetary decisions and believe that the proposed budget protects the most vulnerable and will not disproportionately impact on protected groups.

### **Outcome of Screening**

**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
  - **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
  - **WFG considerations (Q4)**
  - **Any risks identified (Q5)**
  - **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

An IIA screening form has been completed and reviewed. The agreed outcome was that a full IIA report is not required at this time. Proposals for changing levels of funding in specific areas have been subject to a screening process. Service managers have considered the implications of proposed budgetary decisions and believe that the proposed budget protects the most vulnerable and will not disproportionately impact on protected groups.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

**Full IIA to be completed**

**Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome**

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: Paul Lilley</b>
<b>Job title: Housing Finance and IT Manager</b>
<b>Date: 24/01/23</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Carol Morgan</b>
<b>Position: Head of Housing and Public Health</b>
<b>Date: 24/01/23</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 11.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### Capital Budget & Programme 2022/23- 2027/28

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report proposes a revised capital budget for 2022/23 and a capital budget for 2023/24 - 2027/28
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Sustainable Swansea – Fit for the Future
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Members, Corporate Management Team (CMT), Legal, Finance and Access to Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Council:  1) Approves the revised capital budget for 2022/23 and the capital budget for 2023/24 – 2027/28 as detailed in appendices A, B C, D, E, F and G is approved.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 This report details:

- Revised capital expenditure and financing proposals for 2022/23
- Capital expenditure and financing proposals for 2023/24 – 2027/28

### 1.2 Capital spending and funding proposals in relation to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) are detailed in a separate report to be considered.

1.3 The capital budget proposals are detailed in appendices to this report as follows:

Appendix A Total General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure 2022/23 - 2027/28

Appendix B Total General Fund Financing 2022/23 - 2027/28

Appendix C General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure (excluding C21st School programme and Swansea Central City Deal Schemes) 2022/23 - 2027/28

Appendix D C21st Schools Programme Band A Capital Expenditure and Budget 2012/13 – 2022/23

Appendix E QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Capital Expenditure and Budget 2017/18 – 2027/28

Appendix F Swansea Central City Deal Capital Expenditure and Budget 2018/19 – 2023/24

Appendix G Material changes to the original 2022/23 budget

1.4 Appendix A, C, D, E and F outline a comprehensive programme of capital investment including:

- A continuing programme of IT investment across the Council
- The continued investment in Swansea Schools through Band B of the QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme, which now has four completed projects, and one project under construction.
- Swansea Bay City Deal schemes, the completion of Phase 1 the North Block including the Arena with further elements due for completion during the coming 12 months and commencement of construction of Phase 2 Digital Village 71-72 Kingsway Offices
- A significant programme of capital expenditure to assist the City's economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

1.5 The additional capital investment identified above will attract significant grant funding (QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme and Swansea Bay City Deal), however the programme will still require material unsupported borrowing to enable completion alongside the use of capital receipts as they are realised. Furthermore some schemes have the potential to provide additional revenue streams of property income, or, subject to agreement, in due course, with Welsh Government, retained elements of non-domestic rates or possibly tax increment financing as further powers devolve to Welsh Government and then on to local government.

- 1.6 Notwithstanding this scale of ambition, each major scheme will, as is always the case, be considered on the overall merits of each business case, both in capital cost, and revenue income streams where appropriate, and unsupported borrowing will be undertaken on a phased basis within the overall medium/long term envelope of affordability.

Furthermore it has to be recognised that the scale of funding proposed to be injected by this Council, leverages in significant additional sums:

- £107m of Welsh Government funding for Band B schools
- a City Deal, worth, across the region, around £1.3 billion.

The Council continues to face significant challenges delivering the Capital Programme during uncertain economic times with high inflation impacting on capital budgets.

- 1.7 Band B of the Welsh Government's QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme represents the largest single component of capital investment incorporated within the proposed capital programme. The numerous schemes comprise new school builds and significant asset improvements for both English and Welsh medium Schools throughout Swansea.

- 1.8 The Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District project is one of nine projects comprising the wider City Deal. It has been developed by the Council, in partnership with University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD). The core aim of the project is to create a strong and vibrant digital city that will be the economic engine of the wider city region. There are 3 main components: an Innovation Matrix and Innovation Precinct project (led by UWTSD); a Digital Village, which includes 100,000 sq. ft. of flexible and affordable office accommodation for tech businesses (led by the Council); and a Digital Square and Arena which has delivered a 3,500 capacity Digital Arena and associated developments (also led by the Council). A 5 case business model was approved by UK and WG which sets out the project in great detail, including the benefits, costs, procurement process and income derived. After an FPR7 report to cabinet the Digital Square construction has been on site for 24 months and the programme shows completion of the North block in April 2023 and the St David's car park demolition in July 2023. Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) the Arena operator have signed a 30 year lease, have been operating the arena since March 2022 and have sold 145,000 tickets in a successful first season of events. With regard to Digital Village, a contractor has been procured and funding authorised through an FPR7 report and construction has started with a completion date of October 2023.

The Council, through the Shaping Swansea procurement process, has appointed Urban Splash as a long term development partner and entered into a 20 year Strategic Partnership Agreement. The partner and the Council will then progress the 7 sites as set out in the procurement process. Urban splash are progressing Swansea Central North and the Civic site.

Cabinet through an FPR7 report approved the capital funding to reimagine Castle Square to create a step change in the quality of its public realm. An increased level of green space with up to 4 new commercial units will create a new destination which will make it more active, distinctive and vibrant in line with other regeneration investment which is taking place in the City centre. This scheme is currently in planning with construction procurement starting in January 23 and construction on site starting in 2023 subject to the outcome of the construction tender.

## **2. Capital Budget 2022/23-2027/28**

- 2.1 Total General Fund Expenditure in the current year is forecast to be £133.409m (see Appendix A) an increase of £47.26m (see Appendix G) compared with the original estimate of £86.149m excluding waste provision.

This increase is due to the following:

- The addition of grant funded and non-grant funded schemes after Council approved the capital budget in March 2022, together with increases in the cost of schemes following detailed design and planning.
- Reprofiled forecast Cashflow of Swansea Central City Deal Arena scheme and 71-72 Kingsway Offices
- The net balance of schemes reprofiled from 2021/22 into 2022/23 and schemes reprofiled from 2022/23 into 2023/24.

- 2.2 The proposed capital programme 2022/23 – 2027/28 and associated financing is set out below in 2.3 for The General Fund Programme, 2.4 for QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme and 2.5 for the Swansea Central City Deal Programme.

### **2.3 The General Fund Programme and Financing 2022/23 -2027/28**

2.3.1 The General Fund programme is detailed in Appendix C. The attached proposals exclude the Housing Revenue Account capital budget which is detailed in a separate report.

2.3.2 The Capital Budget report considered by Council on 3rd March 2022 outlined an unsupported borrowing requirement for the in-year and five year forward programme of £136.52m

2.3.3 The updated total Capital programme which includes C21st Schools and Swansea Central City Deal schemes highlights a 5 year forward expenditure programme plus 2022-23 of £398.349m (Appendix A) identifying an unsupported borrowing requirement of £126.153m (Appendix B). The capital planning envelope for unsupported borrowing requires significant revenue funding to service the finance and this is set out in both the reports on the revenue budget and the medium term financial plan.

2.3.4 Phased, considered affordable borrowing, within the overall planning envelope has developed over recent years and, in the case of the



funding, from the City Deal, across the next 10 years. Some Major schemes within the General Fund Capital Programme which are partially or fully financed by borrowing are as follows:

- Swansea Central Arena phased development
- Digital Village, 71-72 Kingsway offices
- Community hub development
- Castle Square Regeneration
- Palace Theatre development
- Swansea Vale new car park where borrowing will be financed by future rental income
- Capital contingency of £20m to assist the City's economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

2.3.5 Although there is significant accompanying grant funding and City Deal funding for a number of these schemes, there is a substantial unsupported borrowing requirement to underwrite these schemes. The detailed financing for the City Deal schemes is shown in Appendix B.

## 2.4 Schools Programme and Financing 2022/23 -2027/28

2.4.1 Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme (now called the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme) has drawn to a close, and Band B officially commenced on the 1 April 2019.

2.4.2 Band A was funded by a 50% contribution from the Welsh Government and a 50% contribution from the Council towards a total of £51.507m (plus £150k Challenge Cymru funding).

2.4.3 Welsh Government approved the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band B in December 2017; the funding for Band B of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme is being provided through £600m capital and £500m revenue funding for the whole of Wales. The grant intervention rate for capital projects is 65%, except special schools and PRUs which is 75%, and voluntary aided schools which is 85%.

2.4.4 The approval in principle of the SOP for Band B does not commit the Council to the funding contributions until the final approval of any capital allocation from the Welsh Government which is subject to the submission of further detailed business cases in respect of each specific project, and specific approvals in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

2.4.5 The Band B programme envelope is £149.5m (if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded this amounts to £141.3m). Of this total, £124m is being sought from traditional capital funding, requiring (after allowance for realisable capital and other receipts) a net local funding requirement of £34.5m from unsupported borrowing. The

remaining £25.19m (or £16.975m if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded) is expected to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM), which would require no local capital funding contribution but incur an annual charge once the accommodation and facilities are completed. An equivalent local share of the capital cost for the MIM scheme excluding the voluntary aided sector would be £3.225m although the 19% local contribution would apply to the annual revenue charge.

- 2.4.6 The new builds for Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) at Cockett, known as Maes Derw, YGG Tan-y-lan and YGG Tirdeunaw, and the extension to provide increased capacity for YG Gŵyr and replace sub-standard accommodation, are all now completed and occupied by pupils.

The extension, remodelling and refurbishment of Bishopston Comprehensive School started on site in June 2020 and several phases have now been completed and occupied by pupils. The project is due to be fully completed in March 2023.

Good progress has been made with the feasibility and design development for YGG Bryn Tawe to provide additional capacity and the two MIM schemes to address condition and suitability issues at Gowerton and Olchfa secondary schools.

- 2.4.7 Planning and feasibility for future phases of the programme is underway, however, it is very likely that the scope of the remainder of the programme will be reduced as it will not be possible to deliver within the funding envelope due to the significant inflationary pressures and future uncertainty.

- 2.4.8 Welsh Government announced in November 2022 that the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will now transition away from fixed bands of funding to a more agile rolling programme. This is expected to represent a 9 year capital programme, including an indicative funding forecast for the 9 years, in 3 year phases. At the latest, delivery partners must review and resubmit their Programme by March 2024, and it is anticipated that the remainder of Band B will form part of the early phases of the new rolling programme.

## 2.5 Swansea Central City Deal Programme and Financing

- 2.5.1 The Swansea Central City Deal Phase 1 Arena scheme construction phase was approved at Cabinet on 21 November 2019 at a cost of £134.837m, subsequently increased for additional elements to £135.1m (Appendix F). The detailed outstanding financing for this scheme is shown in Appendix B and spend will be funded from a combination of City Deal grant, capital receipts and unsupported borrowing.

- 2.5.2 Swansea Central City Deal Phase 2 Digital Village scheme construction has commenced on site. The current approved financing for this

scheme at a total of £41.592m is shown in Appendix F which is funded from a combination of City Deal grant, unsupported borrowing and contributions.

## 2.6 Financing the Capital Programme

- 2.6.1 The financing for the General Fund capital programme identified in 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5 is detailed in Appendix B and requires unsupported borrowing of £126.153m towards forecast expenditure of £398.349m (Appendix A).
- 2.6.2 It should be noted that efforts to increase and maximize grants, contributions and capital receipts in order to minimize borrowing requirements are pursued throughout the year. Included within the programme are a number of schemes which are self-financing. Indeed there is a clear strategy for the Council to maximize external investment in any proposals and to seek to target its own investment into areas which offer a return commensurate with or greater than financing costs in order to minimise the Revenue impact of any additional borrowing requirements. In the absence of such a strategy then it has to be realised that any capital expenditure that leads to an overall net increase in borrowing costs brings with it the potential to impact on an already challenging revenue budget scenario going forward.
- 2.6.3 It is recognized that a forecast capital financing requirement of £126.153m remains significant. The revenue implications of this are identified in the revenue budget and medium term financial plan on this agenda. The above programme is affordable and sustainable throughout the lifetime of the medium term financial plan subject to the risks highlighted below.
- 2.6.4 It should be noted that the Council makes an annual budget provision to repay debt through what is known as the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). The MRP policy was revised and approved by Council on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 2018, mitigating the impact of revenue provision in the earlier years, aligning the repayment of the debt with the lifetime of the asset. It was recognised there would be short term 'savings' which would reverse in later years, therefore the establishments of the capital equalization reserve was approved by Council to mitigate and forward plan for the same. Advantage was taken of the low interest rate and volatility in the market to externalise some of its borrowing requirement in 2018/19, by borrowing £90m, although the overall strategy is to mitigate the impact of interest charges by utilising internal resources to meet Cashflow demands but opportunities to take advantage of long term value shall be taken when deemed appropriate. Notwithstanding this and noting the already emerging risks to the upside to long term interest rates and the significant capital financing identified by this report, it was determined that in line with good Treasury Management practice and being mindful of interest rate movements and cashflow requirements,

that during the financial year 2021/22, a further £120m of PWLB borrowing was undertaken. This borrowing was taken in 3 separate tranches at an average of 1.94 % during the year. (This is the cheapest borrowing ever undertaken by this Council). It should be noted that the decision to defer this funding from 2018/19 to 2021/22 was explicit, whilst the PWLB premium was in place and consultation to changes was ongoing. This deferral has therefore avoided the 1% premium imposed on PWLB borrowing during that time.

2.6.5 Noting the programmed profile of grant payments in respect of The Swansea Bay City Deal Financing, it has been determined prudent to utilise the already established Capital Equalisation Reserve, with which to mitigate and smooth the timing differences between funding and capital spend during the early years of the programme.

### **3. Future Schemes**

3.1 The Capital programme as outlined in this report reflects known planned expenditure and financing as at the date of the report.

3.2 Future discretionary projects and schemes shall only be incorporated if they are within the current planning envelope assumption of up to an additional £50m of borrowing already assumed, are self-financing or the associated additional financing costs can be supported from likely future revenue budgets affordably and sustainably. The costs of financing the same are forecast to be materially higher than the recent past noting the rising GILT yield environment, which in turn may limit the capital secured for any policy choice over the balance between revenue and capital priorities. Policy choices will also continue to be made on the degree of public subsidy that any individual schemes may require having due regard to our obligations to lead and shape regeneration and pump prime wider investment activity.

### **4. Risks**

4.1 There are significant risks which may require a future revision of the attached six year capital budget. In particular:

- urgent capital maintenance requirements
- unforeseen costs e.g. failure of retaining walls
- failing to achieve the General Fund capital receipts target
- failing to deliver revenue budget savings as identified in the Revenue Budget Report
- capital financing charges arising from additional unsupported borrowing which cannot be met from existing revenue budgets.
- additional costs arising from any other additions to the Capital programme
- increased borrowing costs

Mitigation in respect of the latter four risks will be achieved by continual review and consideration of individual business cases for the larger schemes.

## **5. Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Authority is under a duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. Failure to do so will be a breach of that duty.

## **6. Prudential Code**

- 6.1 Under the Local Government Act 2003 and subsequent regulations, a local authority is required to comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when setting its budget and must determine and keep under review how much it can afford to borrow. In addition, a local authority must also set out its overall capital strategy and ensure that if it is to be funded via PWLB satisfies the now implemented borrowing criteria.
- 6.2 Two further reports on the agenda will detail what is required under the requirement of the Code and sets out in detail Prudential Borrowing Indicators for 2022/23 and subsequent years and outline the overall Capital Strategy of the Authority.

## **7. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 7.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to their own needs.

- 7.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 7.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 7.4 An integrated impact assessment screening has been undertaken and it concludes that there are no equality impact implications arising from this report. All future programs and schemes covered within this report will be subject to their own Integrated Impact Assessment process.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:**

- Appendix A Total General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure 2022/23 - 2027/28
- Appendix B Total General Fund Financing 2022/23 - 2027/28
- Appendix C General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure (excluding C21st School programme and Swansea Central City Deal Schemes) 2022/23 - 2027/28
- Appendix D C21st Schools Programme Band A Capital Expenditure and Budget 2012/13 – 2022/23
- Appendix E QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Capital Expenditure and Budget 2017/18 – 2027/28
- Appendix F Swansea Central City Deal Capital Expenditure and Budget 2018/19 – 2023/24
- Appendix G Material changes to the original 2022/23 budget
- Appendix H IIA

**Total General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure 2022/23 - 2027/28**

**Appendix A**

		<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Total General Fund (Excluding C21st School and Swansea Central City Deal schemes)	App C	100,509	75,035	20,430	14,559	12,882	14,992	238,407
C21st Schools Band A	App D	182						182
QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme Band B	App E	7,437	4,124	35,871	39,269	15,301	5,888	107,890
City Deal Swansea Central Phase 1 Arena	App F	8,990	5,892					14,882
City Deal Swansea Central Phase 2 Digital Village	App F	16,886	20,102					36,988
<b>Total General Fund (including Schools and City Deal schemes)</b>		<b>134,004</b>	<b>105,153</b>	<b>56,301</b>	<b>53,828</b>	<b>28,183</b>	<b>20,880</b>	<b>398,349</b>
Less waste provision		-595						
<b>Total General Fund (including Schools and City Deal schemes) excluding waste provision</b>		<b>133,409</b>	<b>105,153</b>	<b>56,301</b>	<b>53,828</b>	<b>28,183</b>	<b>20,880</b>	<b>397,754</b>

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
<b>GF Financing (Excluding C21st Schools and Swansea Central City Deal)</b>	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Supported Borrowing</b>							
Welsh Government Supported Borrowing	6,347	6,355	6,355	6,355	6,355	6,355	38,122
<b>Grants and Contributions</b>							
Welsh Government General Capital Grant	4,375	6,527	6,527	6,527	6,527	6,527	37,010
Welsh Government specific grants	33,909	2,532					36,441
European grants	256	838					1,094
Other Grants	3,941	48					3,989
Contributions	1,920	651	746				3,317
<b>Capital Receipts</b>							
Earmarked Capital receipts	281	351	747				1,379
General Capital receipts	4,634	3,416	9,198				17,248
<b>Revenue and Reserve Contributions (including provision for waste schemes)</b>	13,609	8,853	3,138	177		2,110	27,887
<b>Financing excluding unsupported borrowing</b>	<b>69,272</b>	<b>29,571</b>	<b>26,711</b>	<b>13,059</b>	<b>12,882</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>166,487</b>
<b>Unsupported borrowing requirement</b>	31,237	45,464	-6,281	1,500	0	0	71,920
<b>GF Financing (Excluding C21st Schools and City Deal)</b>	<b>100,509</b>	<b>75,035</b>	<b>20,430</b>	<b>14,559</b>	<b>12,882</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>238,407</b>
<b>C21st School Band A Financing</b>							
Unsupported borrowing requirement	182						182
<b>C21st School Band A Financing</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Financing</b>							
WG Traditional capital grant funding	478		18,412	18,150	11,439	4,416	52,895
WG Welsh Medium grant	14	772	639	84			1,509
WG Mutual Investment Model financing (including VA school)			7,185	13,548			20,733
CCS Mutual Investment Model financing		188	4,269				4,457
S106 and other Contributions	223	275	1,007	2,262	293		4,060
Unsupported borrowing requirement	6,722	2,889	4,359	5,225	3,569	1,472	24,236
<b>QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Band B Financing</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>4,124</b>	<b>35,871</b>	<b>39,269</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>107,890</b>
<b>Swansea Central City Deal Schemes Financing</b>							
<b>Swansea Central Phase 1 Arena Financing</b>							
Capital receipts	2,538	2,362					4,900
City Deal funding	4,790	2,214					7,004
Grants (ERDF)	137	171					308
Unsupported borrowing requirement	1,525	1,145					2,670
<b>Swansea Central Phase 1 Arena Financing</b>	<b>8,990</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14,882</b>
<b>Swansea Central Phase 2 Digital Village</b>							
City Deal funding		13,700					13,700
Contribution	100						100
WG ERDF grant	500						500
Unsupported borrowing requirement	16,286	6,402					22,688
<b>Swansea Central Digital Arena Financing</b>	<b>16,886</b>	<b>20,102</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>36,988</b>
<b>Swansea Central City Deal Schemes Financing</b>	<b>25,876</b>	<b>25,994</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,870</b>
<b>Total General Fund Financing</b>	<b>134,004</b>	<b>105,153</b>	<b>56,301</b>	<b>53,828</b>	<b>28,183</b>	<b>20,880</b>	<b>398,349</b>
<b>Total General Fund Unsupported Borrowing Requirement</b>							
General Fund Unsupported borrowing requirement	31,237	45,464	-6,281	1,500	0	0	71,920
C21st School unsupported borrowing requirement Band A	182	0	0	0	0	0	182
QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning unsupported borrowing requirement Band B	6,722	3,077	8,628	5,225	3,569	1,472	28,693
Swansea Central City Deal schemes unsupported borrowing requirement	17,811	7,547	0	0	0	0	25,358
<b>Total GF unsupported borrowing requirement including C21st Schools and Swansea Central City Deal schemes</b>	<b>55,952</b>	<b>56,088</b>	<b>2,347</b>	<b>6,725</b>	<b>3,569</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>126,153</b>



**General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure (excluding C21st School programme and Swansea Central City Deal Schemes) 2022/23 - 2027/28**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Directorate</b>							
Resources (see schemes below)	3,039	2,847					5,886
Education (see schemes below)	4,647	2,527					7,174
Social Services (see schemes below)	866	1,287					2,153
Place (see schemes below)	91,957	68,374	20,430	14,559	12,882	14,992	223,194
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>100,509</b>	<b>75,035</b>	<b>20,430</b>	<b>14,559</b>	<b>12,882</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>238,407</b>
<b>Director of Resources</b>							
<b>Digital &amp; Transformation</b>							
Hwb in schools Infrastructure	134						134
Digital Business Strategy	249						249
Agile IT - mobile phones		721					721
Agile IT - accessories	28	180					208
Mobile IT - laptops	610	1,646					2,256
ERP System Upgrade	114						114
ICT equipment staff reimbursement scheme	39	300					339
WIFI in commercial areas	300						300
Network switches for Guildhall	125						125
Data Centre relocation	440						440
Other IT schemes	11						11
Capital creditors for 2021-22 paid in 2022-23	4						4
<b>Financial Services</b>							
Corporate Capital Contingency	985						985
<b>Total for Director of Resources</b>	<b>3,039</b>	<b>2,847</b>					<b>5,886</b>
<b>Director of Education (excluding 21st Century schools programme)</b>							
Primary and secondary school schemes (not within C21st programme)	359						359
Flying Start schemes	588						588
Parklands Primary extension	168						168
Clwyd Primary pitch drainage	100						100
Pontarddulais Comprehensive	191						191
Reducing Infant Class sizes	143						143
3G pitch Olchfa School	1,244						1,244
Free School Meals infrastructure / equipment	1,805	2,527					4,332
Capital creditors for 2021-22 paid in 2022-23	49						49
<b>Total for Director of Education</b>	<b>4,647</b>	<b>2,527</b>					<b>7,174</b>
<b>Director of Social Services</b>							
Residential home for young people	550	950					1,500
Nant-y-felin conversion van	243	103					346
Borfa activity centre	28	80					108
Other Social Services Schemes	30	154					184
Capital creditors for 2021-22 paid in 2022-23	15						15
<b>Total for Director of Social Services</b>	<b>866</b>	<b>1,287</b>					<b>2,153</b>
<b>Director of Place</b>							
<b>Highways &amp; Transportation</b>							
Active Travel schemes	7,030						7,030
Local Transport Fund schemes	1,779						1,779
Safe Routes in Communities, Road Safety and 20mph grant schemes	1,515						1,515
Structural maintenance roads, including carriageway resurfacing, footways and lighting	4,782						4,782
Highways annual allocation		3,468	3,468	3,468	3,468	3,468	17,340
Highways additional - Street Lighting conversion to LED	1,000						1,000

**General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure (excluding C21st School programme and Swansea Central City Deal Schemes) 2022/23 - 2027/28**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Highways additional funding from internal resources	1,000	2,000	2,000				5,000
Seawall repairs Mumbles	10,927	15,646	46				26,619
Highways & Transportation Vehicle replacement programme and Integrated Transport Unit vehicles	3,509						3,509
Lower Tawe Riverside West SUP	326	123					449
Slip Bridge Refurbishment		139					139
Pont-y-Lon Bridge			656				656
Bascule Bridge	433						433
Other Bridges & retaining Walls	846						846
Morfa Culvert		500					500
Drainage and flood alleviation grant schemes	803						803
Marina barrage schemes	505						505
Other highways schemes	2,419						2,419
<b>Waste Management and Parks</b>							
Tir John works (provision)	595	1,149	346	177		2,110	4,377
Facility to collect and recycle electrical waste	38	71					109
Rhosilli / Mumbles Changing Places toilets	188						188
Playground upgrades	510	800	192				1,502
Other waste schemes	295	7					302
<b>Culture,Sport,Leisure &amp; Tourism</b>							
Leisure Centre improvements (Freedom Leisure schemes)	54	76					130
Cefn Hengoed Community Hub	4,887	1,739	148				6,774
Mynydd Newydd Changing Rooms Linked to Bryntawe 3G Pitch	100	235					335
3G Pitch renewal Phoenix Centre	295						295
Ashleigh Road Hockey pitch resurface	90	10					100
Library Service	45						45
Glynn Vivian Art Gallery		75					75
Dylan Thomas Exhibition relocation	93						93
Grant Theatre kitchen upgrade	86						86
Brangwyn Hall lighting	100						100
Other Culture, Sport, Leisure & Tourism schemes	238						238
<b>Economic Regeneration &amp; Planning (Excluding Swansea Central City Deal schemes)</b>							
Kingsway Urban Parkway (Barclays renovation)	252	1,650					1,902
Kingsway Urban Parkway (infrastructure)	1,188						1,188
Wind Street improvements	382						382
Skyline	430	3,870	2,600	1,500			8,400
Hafod/Morfa Copper Powerhouse	2,306						2,306
Community Hub development	3,670	9,101					12,771
City Centre acquisition	2,825						2,825
Swansea Vale infrastructure/studies	85	630	1,493				2,208
Palace Theatre Redevelopment	4,000	749					4,749
Castle Square redevelopment	1,280	8,954	67				10,301
Re-purposing Swansea	500						500
TRI programme - Strategic	228						228
Valleys Task force Covid recovery schemes	226						226
Economic Stimulus	1,844						1,844
Swansea Market Improvements	225						225
Other regeneration schemes	554	150					704
<b>Housing GF</b>							
DFG's -1996 Act	4,300	1,025					5,325
Housing GF annual allocation		5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200	5,200	26,000
Sandfields Renewal Area	258						258
Property Appreciation Loans	400	376					776
Grant For Nominations	46						46
Comfort Safety & Security Grants (CSS)	53						53
Mini Adaptation Grants (MAG)	600						600
Valleys Task Force Empty Properties Scheme	35						35
Western Valleys Empty Properties Scheme	255						255
Warm Homes Fund	317						317

**General Fund Capital Budget Expenditure (excluding C21st School programme and Swansea Central City Deal Schemes) 2022/23 - 2027/28**

**Appendix C**

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Other Housing GF schemes	83						83
<b>Corporate Building</b>							
Capital Maintenance allocated including Schools additional capital maintenance	10,247						10,247
Capital Maintenance annual allocation		3,214	3,214	3,214	3,214	3,214	16,070
Civic Centre Relocation		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	5,000
<b>Corporate Property</b>							
Accommodation Strategy (agile working)	120	1,042					1,162
Depot Review (including Pipehouse Wharf Replacement)	786						786
Property Portfolio (the funding for this will be repaid by future rental income)	820						820
Energy Efficiency schemes funded by WG Salix loan	300						300
Swansea Vale new car park facility		3,100					3,100
Tir John Solar Panel Farm	80	2,239					2,319
Capital Community Schemes for Play and Highways	1,183						1,183
Other Corporate Property schemes	39	36					75
Place Capital creditors for 2021-22 paid in 2022-23	7,552						7,552
<b>Total for Director of Place</b>	<b>91,957</b>	<b>68,374</b>	<b>20,430</b>	<b>14,559</b>	<b>12,882</b>	<b>14,992</b>	<b>223,194</b>
Totals	100,509	75,035	20,430	14,559	12,882	14,992	238,407

C21st Schools Programme Capital Expenditure and Budget 2012/13 - 2022/23

Appendix D

	to 2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Total
	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Actual spend	Forecast spend	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Band A</b>												
<b>Expenditure</b>												
Morrison Comprehensive Refurbishment	5,445	11,916	4,271	128	2	164						21,926
21st Century Schools Programme (Band A)												
Phase 1												
Burlais Primary new school build	17	453	5,941	1,266	94	185	10					7,966
Gowerton Primary new school build	16	446	2,193	3,833	136	2			5			6,631
YGG Lon Las rebuild and remodel		66	108	2,672	6,202	357	130	277			12	9,824
Glyncollen and Newton Primary improvements		393	1,007									1,400
Phase 2												
Pentrehafod remodelling				52	3,704	6,951	3,418	539	281			14,945
Gorseinon Primary new school build			51	332	11	30	6	3,887	2,163	94	170	6,744
Pentre'r Graig Primary improvements			97	1,117	1,429	21						2,664
YG Gwyr improvements			50	109	766	246	6					1,177
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>5,478</b>	<b>13,274</b>	<b>13,718</b>	<b>9,509</b>	<b>12,344</b>	<b>7,956</b>	<b>3,570</b>	<b>4,703</b>	<b>2,449</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>73,277</b>

QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme Capital Expenditure and Budget 2017/18 - 2027/28

Appendix E

Band B	Progress	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	Total	
		Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	£'000	
<b>Expenditure</b>														
QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning														
Education other than at School new build for														
Maes Derw	Capital	Complete	155	607	3,777	4,919	100	206					9,764	
YGG Tan-y-Lan	Capital	Complete	2	177	219	4,601	3,996	905					9,900	
YG Gwyr	Capital	Complete		112	187	3,622	1,714	1,203					6,838	
YG Bryntawe	Capital	Concept design stage			14	73	64	100	400	3,850	6,527		11,028	
YGG Tirdeunaw	Capital	Complete		165	141	5,172	5,509	564					11,551	
Bishopston Comprehensive School	Capital	On site	35	100	448	5,834	4,404	3,843	500				15,164	
Gowerton Comprehensive School	Capital and MIM	Concept design stage			15	10	4	296	925	8,935	8,759		18,944	
Olchfa Comprehensive School	Capital and MIM	Concept design stage						120	451	6,357	237		7,165	
Lougher / Kingsbridge new build welsh primary	Capital	Pending						275	3,690	5,761	400		10,126	
YGG Crug Glais & Penybryn	Capital	Pending				12	200	613	725	13,066	14,901	5,888	35,405	
English Medium Primary Scheme 2	MIM	Pending							8,200	283			8,483	
St Joseph's Cathedral School	MIM (VA)	Pending						188	3,475	4,552			8,215	
Welsh medium schemes	Capital	Pending			5	50	0	772	639	84			1,550	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>			<b>192</b>	<b>1,161</b>	<b>4,801</b>	<b>24,236</b>	<b>15,853</b>	<b>7,437</b>	<b>4,124</b>	<b>35,871</b>	<b>39,269</b>	<b>15,301</b>	<b>5,888</b>	<b>154,133</b>

Swansea Central City Deal Programme Capital Expenditure and Budget 2018/19 - 2023/24

Appendix F

	spend to 2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	Total
	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Actual spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	Forecast spend £'000	£'000
<b>Swansea Central Phase 1 Arena Expenditure</b>							
RIBA stage 4, enabling works and fees	9,413	9,499					18,912
Construction including main contract and internal staff		11,290	57,162	32,854	8,990	5,892	116,188
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>9,413</b>	<b>20,789</b>	<b>57,162</b>	<b>32,854</b>	<b>8,990</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>135,100</b>

**Funding**

WG and WEFO grant funding					137	171	308
City Deal funding					4,790	2,214	7,004
Capital receipt					2,538	2,362	4,900
Borrowing					1,525	1,145	2,670
<b>Total funding</b>					<b>8,990</b>	<b>5,892</b>	<b>14,882</b>

**Swansea Central Phase 2 Digital Village (71-72 Kingsway Offices)**

	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Expenditure</b>							
Design & Planning	343	903	851	1,098	75		3,270
Construction including main contract and internal staff				1,409	16,811	20,102	38,322
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>903</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>2,507</b>	<b>16,886</b>	<b>20,102</b>	<b>41,592</b>

**Funding**

City Deal funding (note City Deal funding will be annual across 15 years)						13,700	13,700
Borrowing					16,286	6,402	22,688
WG grant (ERDF)					500		500
S106					100		100
<b>Total funding</b>					<b>16,886</b>	<b>20,102</b>	<b>36,988</b>

Scheme	Source of Funding	2022/23 Change £'000
<b>Director of Resources</b>		
<b>Digital &amp; Transformation</b>		
IT Data Centre Relocation to Guildhall	Revenue	440
<b>Director of Education</b>		
Flying Start Capital Grant 22/23	Grant	412
Free School Meals Infrastructure Capital Grant 21/22	Grant	1,805
All Weather Pitch at Olchfa Comprehensive	Borrowing pending future capital receipt	1,240
Football Pitch Drainage & Associated Works at Clwyd Primary	Revenue	100
<b>Director of Social Services</b>		
Purchase IT Equipment & Van for Life Long Learning Service	Grant	243
<b>Director of Place</b>		
<b>Highways &amp; Transportation</b>		
Local Transport Fund 22/23	Grant	1,295
Road Safety 22/23	Grant	240
Safer Routes In Communities 22/23	Grant	366
20mph National Rollout Programme 22/23	Grant	551
Active Travel Fund 22/23	Grant	7,030
Small Scale Flood Risk Mgmt Scheme	Grant	168
Mumbles Promenade Wall Coastal Erosion Scheme - Construction Phase	Grant/Borrowing supported by WG	8,857
Mumbles Promenade Wall Coastal Erosion Scheme - Design & Development Phase	Grant	72
Swansea Marina Inner Lock Gate Refurbishment	Revenue	430
Highways & Transportation Vehicle Replacement Prog 22/23	Revenue	325
Electric Vehicle Fleet Charge Point Infrastructure	Grant	283
Purchase of 4 Adapted Minibuses for ITU	Revenue	232
Noise Fence at Rhodfa Fadog	Revenue	65
CTU Drainage Works	Revenue	20
Purchase of Camera Car for CTU	Revenue	13
Upgrade Pedestrian Crossing at the Junction of High St & Alexandra Road	Contribution S106	37
New Pedestrian Crossing B4489 Swansea Rd Llangyfelach	Contribution S106/Revenue	40
Replacement of 19 Bus Shelters	Revenue	100
Additional Funding for Highways Works	Revenue	1,000
<b>Waste Management</b>		
Upgrade Play Facilities at Hafod Park	Contribution S106	84
Purchase of Wood Chipper and Trailer	Revenue	69
Coed Bach Park Outdoor Gym Equipment	Revenue	40
Rhossili and Mumbles Changing Places Toilets	Grant/Revenue	188
Essential Playground Works	Revenue	510
Resurfacing Footpath and Sports Area at Dunvant Park and Meadow	Revenue	67
<b>Culture &amp; Tourism</b>		
Purchase of Mobile Trailer Stage	Revenue	60
Brangwyn Hall Lighting Renewal	Revenue	100
Grand Theatre - Upgrade Malthouse Kitchen	Revenue	86
Community Recreation Loan Scheme	Capital Receipt	20
<b>Economic Regeneration &amp; Planning</b>		
Hafod/Morfa Copper Works - Powerhouse	Borrowing	1,322
Hafod/Morfa Copper Works Laboratory Building - Scaffolding	Revenue	32
Skyline Project Feasibility	Revenue	430
City Centre Acquisition	Revenue	2,825
Trallwn Playing Fields Drainage	Revenue	102
<b>Corporate Building</b>		
Reducing Backlog Maintenance and Improving Ventilation in Schools Grant 21/22	Grant	3,782
Improvements to Facilities at Ravenhill Park	Revenue	142
Additional Funding - Pontarddulais 2G Pitch & Associated Works	Grant	211
Reprofiled Spending - All Services	Various	11,826
<b>TOTAL MATERIAL CHANGES</b>		<b>47,260</b>

# Appendix H - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Finance & Delivery

Directorate: Resources

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

**Capital Budget 2022/23 and programme 2023/24- 27/28**

The report outlines a comprehensive programme of capital investment including:

- A continuing programme of IT investment across the Council
- The continued investment in Swansea Schools through Band B of the QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme, which now has four completed projects, and one project under construction.
- Swansea Bay City Deal schemes, the completion of Phase 1 the North Block including the Arena with further elements due for completion during the coming 12 months and commencement of construction of Phase 2 Digital Village 71-72 Kingsway Offices
- A significant programme of capital expenditure to assist the City's economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

### Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



## Appendix H - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Engagement not required for the overall capital budget. Engagement and consultation is undertaken for individual capital schemes

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
 Yes  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
 Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
 Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
 Yes  No

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes       No      **If yes, please provide details below**

The capital budget is informed/developed by the Service depts. that consume capital expenditure

## Appendix H - Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

**Q7 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

The capital budget covers all service areas. Each capital scheme will be subject to an IIA in its own right and any cumulative impacts identified at that point.

### Outcome of Screening

**Q8 Please describe the outcome of your screening below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

Capital finance is constrained by the amount of available resources, the budgetary process allocates that budget appropriately. There are no implications arising from this report. All future programs and schemes covered within this report will be subject to their own Integrated Impact Assessment screening.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the relevant section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: Jayne James</b>
<b>Job title: Strategic Finance Manager Capital</b>
<b>Date: 03.01.23</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Ben Smith</b>
<b>Position: Chief Finance Officer (S151 Officer)</b>
<b>Date: 03.01.23</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 12.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### **Housing Revenue Account – Capital Budget & Programme 2022/23 – 2026/27**

<b>Purpose:</b>	This report proposes a revised capital budget for 2022/23 and a capital budget for 2023/24 – 2026/27
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Cabinet Member, Legal, Finance & Access to Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Council:  1) Approves the transfers between schemes and the revised budgets for schemes in 2022/23.  2) Approves the budget proposals for 2023/24 – 2026/27.  3) Approves those individual schemes in Appendix B which are programmed over the 4 year period as described in this report, are committed and that their financial implications for funding over 4 years are approved.
<b>Report Author(s):</b>	Ben Smith / Carol Morgan
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1.0 Introduction

##### 1.1 This report details:

- Revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital expenditure and financing proposals in 2022/23
- HRA Capital expenditure and financing proposals in 2023/24 – 2026/27

1.2 The budget proposals are further detailed in the appendices to this report as follows:

- Appendix A: Summary of the revised budget for 2022/23 and a budget for 2023/24 – 2026/27
- Appendix B: Detailed breakdown of the revised budget for 2022/23 and a budget for 2023/24 – 2026/27
- Appendix C: Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) and More Homes scheme descriptions

## **2.0 Capital Budget**

2.1 The revised programme for the current year is £37.046m i.e. an original budget of £58.2m plus carry-forward from 2021/22 of £2.7m, additional More Homes Schemes of £4.4m less slippage into 2023/24 of £27.3m and other budget adjustments of £0.95m.

2.2 Slippage from 2022/23 into 2023/24 has occurred for a number of reasons. Post pandemic buoyancy in the building industry across the region and shortage of building industry skills has led to restricted programme delivery across a number of work streams. This has been further compounded by high demands for core building materials which has affected the supply chain. Programme delays have also occurred due to limited renewable energy design specialists to design, specify and integrate these elements into a number of wind and weatherproofing schemes.

2.3 The revised More Homes programme for 2022/23 includes increased budget for the acquisition programme, where the focus has been on purchasing ex-council properties that were sold under the Right to Buy as part of the response to rapidly increase the supply of affordable housing to deal with the continuing high levels of demand. Two schemes to convert former District Housing Offices into accommodation were also brought into the programme in response to the WG TACP (Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme) to address the immediate need for accommodation to relieve pressure on homelessness. Masterplans for larger development sites have also been developed.

2.4 The proposed four-year capital programme and the priorities of the various schemes have been developed in line with the HRA Business Plan. They are designed to maintain the Welsh Housing Quality Standard as well as increase the supply of council housing. The investment set out in 2023/24 will ensure remaining 2022/23 commitments will be met and new 2023/24 work-streams have been developed to ensure they are deliverable. Transfers and changes to the 2022/23 budget are set out in appendix B.

## **3.0 Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)**

3.1 The Council has now reached the WHQS standard and reported to Welsh Government 70% of its properties are fully compliant and with 30% reported as having an acceptable fail.

3.2 WHQS guidance permits what are termed ‘acceptable fails’, which apply to building components considered to be non-compliant but where the Council is unable to undertake major repairs or improvements due to the following four reasons: i.) Cost of remedy; ii.) Resident choice; iii.) Physical constraint; and iv.) Timing of remedy. When classing components as acceptable fail, properties will continue to be maintained and managed through the Council’s responsive and routine repairs services to ensure tenants remain safe and secure in their homes.

3.3 The WHQS element of the 4 year investment programme is to maintain those properties already compliant and address a number of those which contain an acceptable fail to further increase compliance levels in accordance with Welsh Government requirements. Schemes detailed in Appendix C will improve homes via the following key components of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard:

In a Good State of Repair

Dwellings must be structurally stable; free from damp and disrepair with key building components being in good condition.

Safe and Secure

Dwellings should be free from risks that could cause serious harm and should be secure in key areas of the home. Heating and electrical systems checks to be up to date and safe; doors and windows to provide good levels of security and fire safety measures to be well designed and in good condition.

Adequately Heated, Fuel Efficient and Well Insulated

Dwellings must be capable of being heated adequately by ensuring heating systems are fuel efficient and properties well insulated.

Contain Up to Date Kitchens and Bathrooms

Kitchen and bathroom facilities are to be relatively modern and in good condition; sufficient to meet the needs of the household and well laid out to prevent accidents.

Located in Attractive and Safe Environments

Homes should be located in environments that residents can relate to and in which they are proud to live. Improvements will be required to ensure areas within the curtilage of properties are safe and communal areas and the wider shared environment are safe and attractive.

Suit the Specific Requirements of the Household

The requirement is for homes to meet the needs of their occupants ensuring necessary facilities such as kitchens and bathrooms are sufficient and where required, adaptations are undertaken for persons with disabilities.

**4.0 Decarbonisation and Energy Efficiency**

4.1 The Welsh Government will be introducing new standards that will require social landlords to further improve their housing stock in order to reduce

occupancy borne carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency. The aim is to bring these into line with the Welsh Government's Decarbonisation agenda. Their Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World report sets out a number of recommendations and has an overall objective to reduce carbon emissions in social housing by 95%.

- 4.2 Revised guidance setting out additional decarbonisation duties are expected to be implemented by Welsh Government in April 2023. In the period leading up to formal adoption, there's an expectation that social housing providers will start integrating renewable technologies as a part of planned repair, maintenance and improvement capital programmes. The selection of properties to benefit from solar panels and battery storage will be based on property condition and our planned next phases of enveloping properties to upgrade aging fabric and improve thermal performance.
- 4.3 It is proposed within the wind and weatherproofing programme, schemes will contain improved designs and higher specifications which will deliver increased thermal efficiency and for the majority of schemes from 2023 onwards scheme will include renewable technologies such as solar (photovoltaic) panels and battery storage. The strategic objective will mean homes will be warmer, cheaper to run for tenants and reduce carbon dioxide emissions which accords with future WG statutory decarbonisation requirements.
- 4.4 The introduction of solar panels and battery storage to planned schemes will on average require £8.75m of investment each year across the 4 years. This investment is affordable within the HRA business plan. This investment will contribute towards reducing carbon emissions and create a platform for future measures but will not deliver carbon zero properties.
- 4.5 The investment required to achieve a fully decarbonised housing stock is estimated to be over £750 million in a time frame thought to be 10 years. Implementing these required statutory changes at this stage is a sensible and pragmatic decision noting that associated works are already in progress on these schemes. However, funding a full programme will only be achievable through additional material funding from Welsh or Central Government, and in the absence of the same, if the decarbonisation objectives are to be met, the current budgeted programme shall need to be reduced accordingly within the envelope of the business planned capital budget. These current proposals will allow the council to begin to develop and grow its knowledge and experience, build skills internally and support local supply chains.

## **5.0 More Homes**

- 5.1 The More Homes Strategy for providing new Council housing has been endorsed by Council. Indicative expenditure of £55m over 4 years up to 2026/27 for taking forward the strategy has been included in the programme. Cabinet has approved an ambition of 1,000 new council homes from 2022-2032, and this 4 year programme will enable the acquisition and construction of around 340 council homes. This will also include the acquisition of properties and land to develop for council and affordable housing. Delivery

will be aided through partnerships, which will increase capacity and pace in the programme.

## **6.0 Financing of HRA Capital Budget 2022/23-2026/27**

6.1 The attached capital budget proposals will be funded through a combination of Welsh Government (WG) contribution via its Major Repair Allowance (MRA) grant, revenue contributions from the HRA, borrowing and grants to support decarbonisation retrofit works to existing stock and new build. Details are set out in Appendix A.

6.2 The funding of the attached capital budget proposals requires additional borrowing of £105.1m for the period between 2023/24 and 2026/27. Total forecast of outstanding HRA borrowing at 31 March 2026 is £224.7m.

## **7.0 Risks**

7.1 The risks to the 4 year programme are similar to those set out in the HRA Revenue report. In particular, the level of Major Repair Allowance grant, levels of Social Housing Grant (SHG) available to support new build, future rent increases (which are determined by WG) and the effect of Welfare Reform on levels of rental income which support capital funding. Additionally there are wider economic risk and the impact of inflation, particularly within the building industry

## **8.0 Integrated Assessment Implications**

8.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 8.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 8.4 An IIA Screening Form has been completed and a full IIA report is not required. Reaching and maintaining the Welsh Housing Quality Standard for the Council's housing and building and acquiring additional properties for the purposes of increasing the supply of social housing in Swansea is an example of the 5 Ways of Working promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and will contribute towards the 7 well-being goals. The planned programme of repairs and More Homes activities set out in this report is about securing sufficient social housing for the long-term and will benefit future generations. Reaching and maintaining the standard and increasing the supply has reduced carbon emissions, increased efficiency and supported employment and the local economy. Future investment will be subject to consultation with those individuals affected via the Council's Major Works Agreement and all schemes needing planning consent will be subject to normal planning procedures and the council's IIA process. Any individual requirement will be taken into account during the scheme liaison process.
- 8.5 Repairing and maintaining existing council housing will secure social housing for the long term, making them healthier and more efficient places to live. New build social housing will stimulate local economic growth, addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, jobs and skills which directly contributes to the council's obligations to act in a sustainable way pursuant to the WFGA.

## **9.0 Legal Implications**

- 9.1 The Authority is under a duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. Failure to do so will be a breach of that duty.

## **10.0 Financial Implications**

- 10.1 Expenditure is ring fenced to the HRA and will be fully funded by MRA grant from Welsh Government, revenue contributions from the Housing Revenue Account, HRA borrowing, Social Housing Grant (SHG). There are no financial implications for the Council General Fund.
- 10.2 Additional borrowing of £105.1m will be required to fund the WHQS and new build programmes from 2023/24 to and including 2026/27.
- 10.3 Contained within programme of improvements are work streams that will contribute towards reducing occupancy related carbon emission as part of the decarbonisation agenda. The scale of these proposed improvements will be small relative to the overall requirement to fully decarbonise the housing stock and are affordable within the current HRA business plan. The



investment required to completely decarbonise the Council's housing stock however, is assessed as unaffordable within the HRA's business plan and will require additional investment and support from Welsh Government to achieve this aim.

### **Background Papers**

None.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Summary of the revised budget for 2022/23 and a budget for 2023/24 – 2026/27.

Appendix B: A detailed breakdown of the revised budget for 2022/23 and a budget for 2023/24 – 2026/27.

Appendix C: Scheme descriptions.

Appendix D: Integrated Impact Assessment Screening Form

Summary of HRA Capital Budget and Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27							
Scheme	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
	Original	Revised	Original	Original	Original	Original	
	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s	£'000s
<b>Good State of Repair</b>							
Wind and weatherproofing	18,761	8,432	15,955	28,085	22,300	26,500	<b>101,272</b>
System built houses and highrise Blocks	2,266	252	2,180	6,950	11,350	8,900	<b>29,632</b>
Roofing	1,703	662	1,465	910	710	1,100	<b>4,847</b>
Windows, doors and general repairs	1,126	883	330	200	200	180	<b>1,793</b>
<b>Safe and Secure</b>							
Fire Safety	3,038	1,722	2,950	1,650	1,650	1,650	<b>9,622</b>
Electrical Improvements	1,974	1,079	2,595	1,640	1,130	1,100	<b>7,544</b>
Passenger Lifts	861	210	150	500	350	160	<b>1,370</b>
<b>Adequately Heated, Fuel Efficient &amp; Well Insulated</b>							
Heating Systems	850	1,083	920	1,000	1,050	1,500	<b>5,553</b>
Energy Efficiency and Grant Support	420	10	90	90	90	70	<b>350</b>
<b>Contain Up to Date Kitchens and Bathrooms</b>							
Kitchens and Bathrooms	1,647	2,437	2,650	1,360	1,215	1,170	<b>8,832</b>
<b>Located in Attractive and Safe Environments</b>							
Environment - Within the Curtilage	8,718	5,885	6,707	1,500	800	800	<b>15,692</b>
Estate Based Environment	2,025	900	950	800	800	800	<b>4,250</b>
<b>Meeting Requirements of the Household</b>							
Adaptations	2,750	2,765	2,750	2,750	2,750	2,750	<b>13,765</b>
<b>More Homes</b>							
New Build and Acquisitions	12,013	10,726	11,159	12,810	15,675	15,475	<b>65,845</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,152</b>	<b>37,046</b>	<b>50,851</b>	<b>60,245</b>	<b>60,070</b>	<b>62,155</b>	<b>270,367</b>

## Appendix A cont.

<b>Financed By:</b>	<b>2022/23 Revised</b>	<b>2023/24 Original</b>	<b>2024/25 Original</b>	<b>2025/26 Original</b>	<b>2026/27 Original</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
Major Repair Allowance (MRA)	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	9,283	46,415
RCCO	20,681	29,899	16,849	12,227	7,092	86,748
Borrowing	0	1,900	27,100	34,400	41,700	105,100
Social Housing Grant (SHG)	2,609	4,662	3,968	4,160	4,080	19,479
Land and Building Development Fund (LBDF)	320	992				1,312
Transitional Accommodation Capital Programme (TACP)	643	769				1,412
Innovative Housing Grant (IHP)	201	301				502
Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP)	2,609	3,045	3,045			8,699
Fire Safety Grant	700					700
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,046</b>	<b>50,851</b>	<b>60,245</b>	<b>60,070</b>	<b>62,155</b>	<b>270,367</b>

**Appendix B**

<b>HRA Capital Programme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>
	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>
<b>Good State of Repair</b>							
Wind & Weatherproofing, Fforesthall	2,751	1,400	1,660	2,000	2,000	2,000	9,060
Wind & Weatherproofing, Garden City	600	50	600	2,000	1,800	1,300	5,750
Wind & Weatherproofing, Birchgrove Road			200	1,800	1,800	2,000	5,800
Wind & Weatherproofing, Pentrechwyth	1,670	1,300	2,130				3,430
Wind & Weatherproofing, Trallwn Road Area	1,210	30	840	1,350			2,220
Wind & Weatherproofing, William Morris Gardens						800	800
Wind & Weatherproofing, Gorseinon						1,200	1,200
Wind & Weatherproofing, Gowerton						600	600
Wind & Weatherproofing, Loughor					1,100	1,600	2,700
Wind & Weatherproofing, Penyrheol	800	30	900	2,000	2,000	2,000	6,930
Wind & Weatherproofing, Pontardulais						900	900
Wind & Weatherproofing, Waunarlwydd	360	20	500	1,900	1,900	2,000	6,320
Wind & Weatherproofing, Clase, Longview Road, Penrhiw Road	819	300	655				955
Wind & Weatherproofing, Clydach Tanycoed	2,900	1,600	200				1,800
Wind & Weatherproofing, Clydach Woodside Road Area	50	20	1,200	1,500	1,800		4,520
Wind & Weatherproofing, Clydach Tyle Teg						1,700	1,700
Wind & Weatherproofing, Gwernfadog & Llanllienwen Road	450	15	635	2,000	1,700		4,350
Wind & Weatherproofing, Garnswllt	910	20	580	400			1,000
Wind & Weatherproofing, Morriston Area	780	20	750	1,800	400		2,970
Wind & Weatherproofing, Trewyddfa Common						800	800
Wind & Weatherproofing, Llwynceithin & Maes Glas Flats	250	499					499
Wind & Weatherproofing, Penlan & Gendros			700	1,600	1,800	1,800	5,900
Wind & Weatherproofing, Sketty	866	15	700	2,000	2,000	1,600	6,315

<b>HRA Capital Programme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>
	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>
Wind & Weatherproofing, Three Crosses						900	900
Wind & Weatherproofing, Jones, Evans & Wilkes Row	503	602					602
Wind & Weatherproofing, Cwm Road						1,300	1,300
Wind & Weatherproofing, Brondeg				1,900			1,900
Wind & Weatherproofing, Landore	1,143	1,370	1,205				2,575
Wind & Weatherproofing, Mayhill & Townhill	1,614	970	1,800	2,000	2,000	2,000	8,770
Wind & Weatherproofing, West Cross		111					111
Wind & Weatherproofing, West Cross - Boarspit	1,050	60	650	1,800	2,000	2,000	6,510
Wind & Weatherproofing, Various Locations	35		50	35			85
Airey & Traditional Built Properties, Felindre	959		350	600			950
Resiform & Traditional Built Properties, Craig Cefn Parc	520	106	700	450			1,256
Wimpey No Fines (WNFs) Properties, Heol Emrys & Tudno PI Refurb	5		500	1,100	1,800	2,000	5,400
Wimpey No Fines (WNFs) Properties, Waunarlwydd		25					25
Easiform Properties, Winch Wen		8					8
Highrise Flats, Dyfatty, Croft Street	747	100	600	4,750	9,500	6,100	21,050
Highrise Flats, Dyfatty, Griffith John Street Area	30	5	30	50	50	800	935
Highrise Flats, Clyne Court & Jeffreys Court	5	8					8
Chimney Repairs	1,600	550	1,100	900	700	600	3,850
Chimney Repairs, Building Services		40					40
Pitched Roof Renewal, Uplands, Sketty			360				360
Pitched Roof Renewal, Various	10						10
Pitched Roof Renewal, Townhill				2,000			2,000
Pitched Roof Various, Maes Yr Efail		4					4
Pitched Roof, Various Slate Roofs						500	500
Flat Roof Renewal, Various	66	68					68
Flat Roof & Window Renewal Rheidol Court	27						27

HRA Capital Programme	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Scheme	Original	Revised	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's
Balcony Repairs	390	458					458
Window & Door Renewal	98	98	10	10	10	10	138
Fire Door Improvement	208	150	150	20	20		340
Structural Repairs	200	70	100	150	150	150	620
Drainage Repairs and Improvements	30	23	40	20	20	20	123
Repairs to DHOs - Various	200	84	30				114
<b>Safe and Secure</b>							
Fire Safety General	700	100	350	150	150	150	900
Fire Safety Highrise (£24.6)		8					8
Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors & Environmental Sensors	1,438	800	2,400	1,500	1,500	1,500	7,700
Fire Safety Sprinkler System - Highrise & Sheltered		23					23
Sprinkler System - Griffith John Street	900	786	200				986
Sprinkler System - Jeffreys Court		1					1
Sprinkler System - Clyne Court		4					4
Electrical Rewiring	1,459	609	1,650	1,000	1,100	1,100	5,459
Electrical Rewiring Contingency	5						
Electrical Rewiring & Emergency Systems to Communal Blocks	200	189	100	50			339
Electrical Rewiring Sub Mains to Highrise Blocks	20	1	5				6
Warden Call and Tynetec System	210	176	490	430			1,096
Communal Aerials	50	74	150	80			304
CCTV	30	30	200	80	30		340
Passenger Lift Renewal and Improvements - Matthew Street	861	210	150	500	350		1,210
Conway Court						160	160
<b>Energy Efficiency and Adequately Heated</b>							
Drimaster / Ventilation Programme			20	50	50	50	170
Boiler / Heating Replacement	850	1,000	900	950	950	1,400	5,200

<b>HRA Capital Programme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>
	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>
Distribution Systems - General - Gas and Wet systems		30			50	50	130
Heating Upgrades / Fuel Conversions / Now Include in Boiler Renewal		53					53
Loft Insulation	20		80	80	80	60	300
Energy Efficiency and Energy Grant Support	300						
Energy Efficiency - City Wide, Heat & Ventilation	100	10	10	10	10	10	50
<b>Kitchens and Bathrooms</b>							
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Renewal	1,500			200	200	200	600
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Extractor Fan Renewal				60	115	170	345
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Contractor 1	50	600					600
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Contractor 2	55	16					16
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Contractor 3	22	30					30
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Contractor 4	20	19					19
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Void Properties		1,610	1,600	1,100	900	800	6,010
Kitchens & Bathrooms, Tenant Request		80	700				780
Kitchens & Bathrooms, CBS - Pantgwyn		82	350				432
<b>Located in Safe Attractive Environment</b>							
<b>Environment - Within the Curtilage</b>							
External Facilities, Various Schemes	500		1,000	800	800	800	3,400
External Facilities, Penlan		12					12
External Facilities, St Thomas		440					440
External Facilities, Bonymaen		18					18
External Facilities, Birchgrove		4					4
External Facilities, Trallwn		26					26
External Facilities, Winch Wen	40	40					40
External Facilities, Llanllienwen Need	155	70					70
External Facilities, Caemawr	13	36					36

<b>HRA Capital Programme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>
	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>
External Facilities, Clase	400	311	150				461
External Facilities, Brondeg/City Centre	350	400	200				600
External Facilities, Samuel Crescent, Gendros & Landore	35	20					20
External Facilities, Heather Crescent, Sketty	20	25					25
External Facilities, Oaktree Avenue, Sketty	250	75	375				450
External Facilities, Landore/Trewyddfa	320	315	200				515
External Facilities, Chestnut Avenue, West Cross	870						
External Facilities, Glenside, Portmead	550	258	25				283
External Facilities, Sheltered Complexes	100	268	260				528
External Facilities, Clase	50	40	30				70
External Facilities, Gowerton	300	396	12				408
External Facilities, Portmead Ave	650	401	250				651
External Facilities, Fforesthall	700	379	400				779
External Facilities, Loughor	700	665	250				915
External Facilities, Caergynydd Road Area	1,000	459	500				959
External Facilities, Gower	1,000	500	400				900
External Facilities, Penllergaer			450				450
External Facilities, Pontardulais			900				900
External Facilities, Clydach East			1,000	400			1,400
Meter Boxes	15		5				5
Voice Entry Systems, Various	700	727	300	300			1,327
<b>Environment - Estate Based</b>							
General Environmental Schemes	1,750	900	950	800	800	800	4,250
Environment - Estate Based	275						
<b>Meeting the Needs of the Household</b>							
Adaptations, Internal	2,000	1,725	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	9,725



HRA Capital Programme	2022/23	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	Total
Scheme	Original	Revised	Original	Original	Original	Original	Original
	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's	000's
Adaptations, External	750	1,040	750	750	750	750	4,040
<b>More Homes</b>							
More Homes - Parc Y Helig		1	52				53
More Homes - Colliers Way		12					12
More Homes - Creswell Road	800	30	632	1,350			2,012
More Homes - Other	175	81	175	175	175	175	781
More Homes - Acquisitions	2,000	4,500	3,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	13,500
More Homes - Acacia Refurb West Cross							
More Homes - Hillview/Beaconsview	100	950					950
More Homes - The Circle West Cross	1,620	1,903					1,903
More Homes - Conversion 70-72 Alexandra Rd, Gorseinon	270	398					398
More Homes - Purchase & Conversion Bryn House		33					33
More Homes - Heol Dynys New Build	500	236	400	3,000	1,000		4,636
More Homes - Spark Centre Conversion	507	50	500				550
More Homes - Acquisitions Adapted Properties	150	300					300
More Homes - Acquisition of General Fund Land	1,525		2,000	1,000	1,000		4,000
More Homes - Heol Emrys and Tudno Place New Build	550	150	650			1,800	2,600
More Homes - Ty Fforest	109	111					111
More Homes - Brondeg House	77	567	200	2,185	2,000		4,952
More Homes - Brokesby Road - Master Plan 4 Sites	730	400	200				600
More Homes - Brokesby Road - Site 1					4,000	4,000	8,000
More Homes - Milford Way Partnership Scheme A	500	70			4,000		4,070
More Homes - Milford Way Partnership Scheme B	500					4,000	4,000
More Homes - Skomer and Westdale	150		50	100			150
More Homes - DHO Conversion Penlan		218	750				968
More Homes - Tan y Coed Road	150		50				50

<b>HRA Capital Programme</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Revised</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>	<b>Original</b>
	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>	<b>000's</b>
More Homes - Heol Gwyrosydd	150		50				50
More Homes - Penrhos Place	150		50	100		1,000	1,150
More Homes - Gorseinon Business Park	500	500	50	100		1,000	1,650
More Homes - Gower Road	300		50	100			150
More Homes - Acquisition Hanover Street			1,500				1,500
More Homes - DHO Conversion Eastside	500	216	750				966
More Homes - Scurlage			50	100		1,000	1,150
More Homes - Acquisitions Gwynfaen Farm Development				1,600			1,600
More Homes - Acquisitions Garden Village					1,500	1,500	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,152</b>	<b>37,046</b>	<b>50,851</b>	<b>60,245</b>	<b>60,070</b>	<b>62,155</b>	<b>270,367</b>

## HRA 4 Year Capital Programme

### WHQS and Scheme Descriptions

#### Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)

The WHQS is a legal requirement and a strategic target for the council; it contains key standards that social landlords across Wales are expected to meet. Compliance with the WHQS is measured via condition surveys which gauge compliance based on the condition and suitability of a wide range of building components. Within the WHQS, landlords are permitted to apply 'acceptable fails' where building components are considered to be non-compliant. The four classifications of acceptable fails are: i.) Cost of remedy; ii.) Resident choice; iii.) Physical constraint; and iv.) Timing of remedy. Whilst properties may contain an acceptable fail they will continue to be maintained and managed through the Council's repairs services to ensure tenants remain safe and secure in their homes.

#### Good State of Repair

##### Wind and Weatherproofing

Wind and Weatherproofing includes the repair and upgrade of the external fabric and energy efficiency of individual homes. The purpose is to maintain structural integrity, improve weather protection and significantly increase the thermal and energy efficiency. The energy efficiency measures will be aimed towards reducing energy bills and making homes more affordable to live in. The measures will also reduce occupancy related carbon dioxide emissions and contribute towards the Council's and Welsh Government's decarbonisation agenda.

The specification of work will include insulating and renewing roof coverings, weatherboards and rainwater goods, wall tie renewal, application of external wall insulation, window renewal, porches and canopies where necessary, new front and back doors where required, balcony railings, balcony floors and doors, renewing and upgrading communal entrance doors and communal spaces, upgrades to fire safety arrangements, repairs to paths, steps, and handrails, fencing and drying facilities within the curtilage of the home.

Schemes commencing from financial year 2023/24 will include as part of the specification renewable technologies including solar panels (photovoltaic panels generating electricity) and battery storage systems. For some locations including those which are off-mains gas, refurbishment may include solar hot water panels, air source heat pumps, or ground source heat pumps, ventilation systems, mechanical heat recovery systems or any emerging technology or system that provides low or carbon neutral benefits to homes.

An additional element from financial year 2023 onwards will be the introduction of monitoring equipment into many of these schemes including which will measure and report temperature, humidity and carbon monoxide levels, gas and electricity usage. For selected properties the budget will meet the cost of testing airtightness. The monitoring equipment will allow the Council to assess the performance of homes and the impact of the improvements. Data on homes will be anonymised and then shared with the Welsh Government.

Welsh Government have advised that Optimised Retrofit Programme will be available for the Council to claim to assist with cost of undertaking monitoring works, introducing renewable technologies and enhancing fabric related insulation levels to refurbishment schemes.

Introducing renewable technologies into wind and weatherproofing schemes will reduce household costs and occupancy related carbon emissions and provide the opportunity to develop and increase skills and knowledge to design and deliver renewable energy systems in future.

To assist with delivery and monitoring performance of the energy efficiency measures, the Council may engage a partner such as an academic body or specialist in this area. Partnership may include direct contribution of some renewable equipment, post occupancy monitoring, as well as public acknowledgement of grant-based contributions, promotion and academic reporting.

These contracts will operate over the period of this four-year programme. Schemes may be packaged together to assist with delivery and may be subject to planning permission requirements; where this applies, officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Airey and Traditional Constructed Properties, Felindre**

Airey properties are of a concrete panel type construction and were built in the early 1950s. Externally, work will include providing new roof coverings and rainwater goods, repairs to the structure, wall finishes replaced with a new system or with traditional building materials depending on the most effective solution. New windows, front and back doors, repairs to paths, steps, handrails, fencing and drying facilities within the curtilage of the home where necessary. The properties will also receive renewable technologies including solar panels, battery storage, ground or air source heat pumps, ventilation systems and performance monitoring equipment. Internally, work will include kitchens and bathrooms and electric wiring as part of the refurbishment and in some instances, improvements to fire safety may be undertaken. The repair scheme will secure the long-term structural integrity of the properties, improve weather protection, provide new kitchens and bathrooms and increase the thermal and energy efficiency of the dwellings.

To assist with delivery and monitoring performance of the energy efficiency measures, the Council may engage a partner such as an academic body or specialist in this field. Partnership may include direct contribution of some renewable equipment, post occupancy monitoring, as well as public acknowledgement of grant-based contributions, promotion and academic reporting.

This scheme will operate beyond a single financial period. This contract may be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Resiform and Traditional Properties**

Resiform properties are of a timber frame and fiberglass panel type construction and were built in the 1970s. Work will include renewing roofs and rainwater goods, repairs to the structure, application of external wall insulation and where required new thermally efficient windows and front and back doors, repairs to paths, steps, handrails, fencing and facilities within the curtilage of the home where necessary. In some instances, improvements to fire safety may be undertaken. The repair scheme will secure the long-term structural integrity of the properties, improve weather protection and increase the thermal and energy efficiency of the dwellings. Selected properties may include renewable technologies to create Homes as Power Stations (HAPS) which aims to greatly improve the energy

efficiency of homes, reduce energy costs for tenants and inform future approaches to reducing carbon emissions and address the Welsh Government's decarbonisation agenda. The scheme may be supported by grant funding. To assist with delivery and monitoring performance of the energy efficiency measures, the Council may engage a partner such as an academic body. Partnership may include direct contribution of some renewable equipment, post occupancy monitoring, as well as public acknowledgement of grant based contributions, promotion and academic reporting. This scheme may include a cross tenure approach with a single contractor delivering improvements to both Council and private properties. In this case, HRA funding will only support the refurbishment of HRA properties but the Council may facilitate the scheme with private owners funding their work either directly or through a separately obtained grant. Properties may be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Wimpey No Fines Properties – Heol Emrys and Tudno Place**

Wimpey No Fines are properties built with solid concrete walls and are thermally inefficient. A regeneration project has been commissioned to address some of the issues affecting the Wimpey No Fines properties in Heol Emrys and Tudno Place and an overarching masterplan is in the process of being developed which will set out a range of options and a programme of works to enable delivery of the agreed plan. It is likely that the plan will include a mix of refurbishment, new build and possible selective demolitions as part of regeneration works to improve the existing properties, increase the number of homes and enhance the area.

The refurbishment element will address structural repairs where required, increased loft insulation, roof covering, the application of insulated render to improve thermal efficiency and weather protection, window and door renewal and renewable technologies such as solar (photovoltaic) panels, battery storage, ventilation systems and performance monitoring equipment. Internally, homes will receive new kitchens and bathrooms and where required, new boilers and electrical wiring. The immediate environment will be enhanced and subject to the designs being finalised, homes will have Where required, repairs to paths, steps, handrails, fencing and drying facilities within the curtilage of each home will be undertaken. The regeneration programme will be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Easiform Properties**

Easiform properties are typically a poured concrete construction built in the 1950s and 1960s. The scheme will secure the long-term structural integrity of the properties, improve the weather protection and safety and particularly improve the thermal efficiency of the properties. The scope of work will include roof repairs, wall repairs and insulation, window renewal as required, improvements to balconies where present and minor upgrades to fire safety. The scheme will include upgrades to communal entrance systems, repairs to paths, steps, and handrails, fencing and drying facilities within the curtilage of each home. Schemes may be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Refurbishment of Highrise and Surrounding Low-rise Flats**

The Council's high rise blocks were all built in the early 1960s and now require repairs to ensure their continued use over the long term. The schemes will focus on the remaining blocks in Dyfatty, specifically Croft Street and Griffith John Street and the scope of the work will be significant and varied in order to deliver key aims which include protecting the structures; improving their weather resistance, thermal and energy efficiency and fire safety. The flats will also receive improvements to communal areas within the blocks, internal facilities for individual homes as well as wider environment to ensure they are safe

and attractive places to live. Investment will go towards the design, research and preparation of the scheme and the repair and improvements to the high and low rise blocks.

For individual flats, the schemes will provide new kitchens and bathrooms including associated work and improved kitchen layout. Electrical rewiring will be renewed where required, improvements to heating systems, integrated television reception systems and cabling for internet access, new door entry systems and upgrades to fire safety which will include the installation of sprinklers through individual flats, improved fire detection and warning, fire stopping and improved fire separation. Work inside homes may require additional repairs and renewal of decorative and floor finishes depending on the level of disruption within homes.

Communal areas will have improved drainage and repairs and upgrades to any incoming or outgoing ducts and pipe work as well as service shafts. The blocks will receive new passenger lift cars and equipment including firefighting lifts where appropriate, new communal lighting and electrical installations including communal integrated TV and internet cabling and where required upgrade to the incoming electrical sub mains supply. Communal areas will also be covered by a new sprinkler system and upgrades to CCTV to ensure all areas are monitored. Where required improvements to fire safety, decoration and floor finishes may be included.

Externally, the work will include a new roof and roof insulation, structural repairs, insulation and cladding systems, rainwater and foul water drainage and dispersal equipment, possible upgrades to incoming gas, electrical and water services, improvements to the communal walkways and upgrades to the balcony rails, balcony drainage and flooring, new balcony doors, repairs to balcony slabs, new thermally efficient windows, upgrades to fire protection, improved CCTV systems where required, improved entrances, renewal of the communal electrical wiring and lighting, and improvements to the decoration.

The highrise schemes will treat the immediate Housing owned areas in the surrounding areas with the aim to provide a safe and attractive environment for residents and visitors. To achieve this, the scheme will seek, amongst other works, to improve paths and circulation routes, improve security and safety which may include fencing and walls and improved lighting and CCTV coverage. Also work will include repairs to free standing and retaining walls, parking and areas of hard and soft landscaping, likely removal of garages and creation of additional resident parking.

The project will also create new accommodation by converting empty storage areas and commercial premises into HRA owned dwellings providing a mixture of general needs HRA accommodation where possible convert immediately surrounding hard environments into gardens or green buffer zones to improve the quality of accommodation. To create more ground floor area for accommodation and a plant room, the Town Centre District Housing Office may be relocated to vacant retail accommodation on High Street.

As part of the improvements to the wider area, the HRA may seek to acquire or appropriate properties or parcels of land in order to contribute more towards improvements to the High Street area. In such cases, officers will undertake appropriation and acquisition activities in line with the Council's constitution and corporate financial rules.

The project is expected to take over four years to complete and will run across the full-time scale of this reporting period. Schemes will be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as required.

### **Chimney Repairs**

The scheme will involve repairing, rebuilding or taking away chimneys if no longer required as well as any associated works to heating systems. The work will prevent damp, minimise repairs for the response repair service and will be an ongoing scheme over the four year reporting period.

### **Pitched Roof Renewal**

Pitched roof renewal includes repairing the roof structure and chimneys, increasing insulation levels and replacing the roof covering to ensure long-term weather protection. Some schemes may include renewable technologies such as photovoltaic panels and battery storage. Contracts are expected to run over the period of this four year programme.

### **Flat Roof Renewal**

The scheme will include the renewal of flat roofs within the HRA portfolio and will include flat roofs to main buildings, stores or walkways. The work will include improved insulation and new materials to secure long-term weather protection. Work may also include any minor repairs and upgrades to fire safety in these areas.

### **Balcony Repairs**

Balconies will be repaired and improved to ensure they remain in good condition and safe to use. Repairs will include new balcony rails and enclosures (where present), repairs to the balcony slabs, supports and structures, drainage, floor surface or fire safety upgrades where required.

### **Window and Door Renewal**

Replacement of windows and doors which are at the end of their useful life or require upgrading; the new units will improve thermal efficiency and security. Where required, some windows will be replaced to provide a means of escape. Where necessary, fire doors will be renewed in flats and to storage or communal areas to ensure they provide suitable fire protection.

### **Structural Repairs**

Structural Repairs will treat free standing or retaining structures or parts of existing buildings or supporting ground where there is failure or disrepair, subsidence, heave or movement cases, and other structural elements belonging to HRA assets that are considered to be in need. The budget will meet costs for investigations, design and scheme preparations as well as demolition, repairs and renewal of properties or structures. Where necessary, this budget may support the buyback of properties where there are structurally related issues.

### **Drainage and Services**

Where new drainage is required, existing drainage is in disrepair or in need of upgrading, servicing or there is a need to address changes in demand, or upgrades to incoming water supplies, the scheme will look to maintain or improve sites and may include amongst other items: activities assisting in the design and evaluation of systems, new systems, alternative or new layouts, expansion of current systems or works to support or protect systems and arrangements. In scope will be formal storm and foul water drainage systems, swales, rain gardens, attenuation systems, gullies, watercourses, rivers, streams, ditches and culverts and areas of water run-off, pooling or ponding.

### **Repairs to HRA Offices and Operational Assets – Various**

The investment is allocated to carry out repairs, alterations, refurbishment or renewal to HRA offices and / or HRA operational assets where required. The scope of work may include the conversion of existing facilities into accommodation or vice versa depending on service requirements, demolition of redundant offices or structures in connection, the repair and upgrade or the extension or creation of new assets to assist with the management and maintenance of the HRA housing stock. The work will include various items relating to the design, fees, structure, fabric, electrical, mechanical, drainage, incoming services and elements within the curtilage. If works are subject to planning permission requirements, officers will submit planning applications as required.

## **Safe and Secure**

### **Fire Safety and Risk Reduction – Various Locations**

A range of fire safety and general risk reduction measures will be undertaken to homes, land and HRA assets. Work will be varied and will include the provision of up-to-date fire safety signage and other fire safety communication, upgrading fire stopping materials, minor changes to layout and access routes, intrusive investigations and whole building risk assessments by specialists, testing in relation to improvement work, safety improvements within homes and communal areas including communal kitchens, fire barriers, upgrades to firefighting equipment and material and improvements to fire safety monitoring and warning systems. Where opportunities arise, the Council will seek grant support and officers will follow relevant financial procedure rules relating to grants. If works are subject to planning permission requirements, officers will submit planning applications as required.

### **Smoke Alarms, Carbon Monoxide Detectors and Environmental Sensors**

Hard wired smoke alarms, heat detectors and carbon monoxide detectors will be renewed in homes to ensure uninterrupted service and ensure homes remain safe. Investment will also be used for installing, repairing and renewing environmental sensors within the home. Environmental sensors monitor heat, humidity, carbon monoxide and energy use in the home and will be a requirement for accessing Welsh Government grant aimed at supporting a programme of making homes more affordable to live in and more energy efficient. Alarms and sensors will also include remote monitoring systems which detect alarms removal, activation and disrepair. The project will be ongoing and will run over the period of this four-year programme.

### **Fire Safety Sprinkler Systems – Highrise and Sheltered Complexes**

The scheme will install a sprinkler system to individual flats and communal areas of highrise blocks and older person sheltered complexes. Investment will be to all works in connection with delivering this work. The aim is to improve the fire safety for residents.

### **Electrical Rewiring – Various Locations**

Homes with electrical installations which are approximately 30 years or identified through testing as requiring renewal will be rewired as part of a planned scheme. Investment will meet the cost of the installation and works in connection as well as disruptions costs. The project will be a long-term contract and will run over the period of this four year programme.

### **Electrical Rewiring Contingency – Various Locations**

Properties will be rewired where an electrical inspection has identified that this is necessary.



### **Electrical Rewiring & Emergency Systems to Communal Blocks**

The electrical systems in communal areas will be rewired and improved where the existing installations are required by the relevant regulation, where an electrical inspection has identified that this is required or where it is required as part of a service provided by the Council. The scope of the work will include the provision of new electrical wiring, emergency lighting, new communal aerial facilities, lightning conductors, fire alarms, Automatic Opening Vents (AOVs), smoke extraction systems, IT systems and cabling, warning or helpline systems, CCTV, electrical mains and sub mains supply (where in housing ownership) and communal fire alarm systems as required. This contract will operate over the period of this report.

### **Warden Call and Alarm Systems**

Investment is required to upgrade and improve tenant and warden call systems to alarm receiving centres to ensure continued uninterrupted provision for older and or infirm tenants. Work will include all relevant materials, installation activities and subscriptions to ensure tenants have access to a call system that contributes towards or facilitates support and help in older person accommodation.

### **Communal Aerials and TV Systems**

The scheme is to repair, renew and upgrade existing communal aerial systems and install new where appropriate in housing accommodation. The majority of work will take place in older person sheltered accommodation and blocks of flats. The work will include upgrading and renewing aerial and satellite systems.

### **CCTV and Remote Concierge Systems**

Investment will be to provide new where strictly required and renew and upgrade existing CCTV systems, infrastructure, monitoring systems and remote concierge systems to ensure they meet the needs of the Housing Service. The installation and renewal will follow the required protocols for the installation and use of CCTV systems.

### **Passenger Lift Repair, Improvement and Provision – Various Locations**

The Housing Service has responsibility for passenger lifts within its blocks of flats and sheltered accommodation. The investment is to meet the cost of assessment, design and repair, improvement, alteration or renewal to passenger lifts and lift shafts, and associated work where there are defects (or at the end of their useful life) to ensure continued safe and long-term provision. The scope of work will include new lift cars, work to electronics, lift shaft repairs and upgrade, provision of fire-fighting lifts and auxiliary power systems, and where there is sufficient requirement, new provision may be included at selected sites.

## **Adequately Heated**

### **Ventilation Programme - Various**

Investment will be to improve ventilation arrangements to improve air quality, and the energy efficiency within homes to ensure they are healthy and efficient places to live.

### **Boiler Replacement – Various Locations**

Heating systems will be renewed or upgraded as part of a long-term programme aimed at improving efficiency and reliability. The scope of the work will include surveys, investigations and designs, option appraisals where required, renewal to both individual and communal heating systems, upgrades to existing systems and fuel switching where required – this may include renewable energy systems where appropriate. This contract is ongoing and will run over the period of this four year programme.

### **Heating Distribution Systems – Various Locations**

Investment will be used for investigations, designs as well as the repair and improvement of heating distribution systems and any work in connection including gas or fuel supplies in HRA ownership or any drainage or discharging points. Work will typically include repairs, improvements and renewal of central heating pipe work, radiators, valves and thermostatic valves, insulation measures, room thermostats, electrical supply, safety valves and cut-off systems and communal heating systems. The work may also involve reconfiguring and rerouting pipe work and any works in connection. The aim is to ensure heating systems are efficient, effective, safe and reliable for tenants.

### **Heating Upgrades – Various Locations**

The scheme is designed to provide fuel switching to council homes e.g. coal to gas, storage heaters to gas or the installation of renewable heating system etc. as well as provide minor improvements to heating systems including time clocks and room thermostats.

### **Loft Insulation**

The scheme will improve loft, roof and ceiling insulation levels in council homes with the aim of improving thermal efficiency. This contract will operate over the period of this four year programme. The scheme will also seek to access and support grant funding where available.

### **Energy Efficiency Measures and Energy Grant Support – Various**

This investment is to meet the costs directly and/or support grants for carrying out design and feasibility studies as well as the delivery of measures that improve thermal and energy efficiency and/or Carbon Emissions in council homes. Work may include design and monitoring activities, engaging in academic studies into energy efficiency, the installation or the renewal of solar photovoltaics, solar hot water, battery storage, air source or ground source heat pump, mechanical vent heat recovering systems, communal heating systems, insulation measures including wall insulation or other emerging energy saving technology / applications. The aim is to support projects that will develop knowledge and understanding, make homes more energy efficient, reduce energy costs for tenants, reduce carbon emissions and inform future approaches. The work will be ongoing and is expected to run over the period of this four year programme. Where opportunities arise, the Council will participate in grant assisted energy efficiency schemes and officers will follow relevant financial procedure rules relating to grants. Schemes or activities which are subject to planning permission requirements, officers will submit planning applications as necessary.

### **Kitchen and Bathroom Renewal**

#### **Kitchen and Bathroom Renewal**

The investment will be to improve the internal living facilities, making these more safe and useable. Work may include, depending on requirements, alterations or replacement to electrical wiring, replacement central heating systems, incoming water supply, drainage arrangements, renewing food preparation surfaces, storage and cooking areas, kitchen layout alterations, flooring, decorative finishes including tiling and where required the renewal of sanitary facilities. Where required, the scheme will include general improvements to the home to enable kitchens and bathrooms to be improved, for example damp treatment, floor slab repairs/renewal or structural alteration to improve space and circulation within the home. The scheme will also include alterations and adaptations to kitchen and bathrooms where the occupants are identified as requiring these due to age, illness or disability. Contracts will operate over the period of this four year programme.

## **Located in Safe/Attractive Environments**

### **Environment - Within the Curtilage**

#### **External and Communal Facilities (Including Fencing/Walls/Hardstanding & Paths)**

The scheme will undertake repairs to the external facilities within the curtilage of individual homes and communal areas of blocks of flats to ensure they are reasonably safe and practicable areas. Garden areas can vary considerably from property to property and therefore the work will be tailored to the needs of individual homes, but will broadly include minor repairs or partial replacement of fencing and boundary walls, walls within the curtilage, repairs to structural paths, steps, handrails, drying facilities, clearance and or planting where necessary or lighting to communal areas. Where some facilities are no longer viable, these may be removed. The project will be ongoing and will run over the period of this four year programme.

### **Meter Boxes**

The scheme will replace and upgrade gas and electric meter boxes to improve safety and the appearance. The project will be ongoing and will run over the period of this four year programme.

### **Voice Entry Systems**

The scheme will renew or upgrade existing or provide new communal entrance doors in blocks of flats with voice entry systems. Investment will also ensure communal areas are protected and improve the safety and security for tenants and residents.

## **Environment**

### **General Environmental Improvement Schemes**

The scheme is to improve areas belonging to the Housing Revenue Account element of the Housing Service which are outside the curtilage of individuals' homes. The schemes will be based on consultation exercises with stakeholders as well as repairs and improvements necessary for the Housing Service to discharge its duties as asset holder.

## **Meeting Requirements of the Household**

### **Adaptations**

This funding is for alterations and improvements to council homes for tenants with medical conditions or disabilities. This scheme is ongoing and will operate over the period of this four year programme.

### **More Homes**

The investment will be to support the creation of Council homes for social rent and increase the supply of affordable housing in Swansea. The investment will be primarily used to construct new homes on HRA land but also to acquire houses, flats, bungalows, property, buildings and land, and undertake any necessary clearance and preparation or other preparatory work associated with actions set out in the agreed 'More Council Homes Strategy'. Officers will undertake appropriation and acquisition activities in line with the Council's constitution and financial procedure rules. Activities to deliver the More Council Homes Strategy will include seeking and utilising grant assistance wherever available. As well as direct delivery to build new homes, the Council will also seek options to procure a development partner or a range of partners to deliver larger mixed tenure HRA sites, as well as exploring opportunities to work with local RSLs on delivery partnerships. The schemes will operate over the period of this four year programme. Schemes will be subject to planning permission requirements and officers will submit planning applications as required.

**IIA - Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.**

**Which service area and directorate are you from?**

Service Area: Housing and Public Health

Directorate: Place

**Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?**

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:**

The joint report between both the Housing and Finance Service to Council sets out the revised Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital expenditure and financing proposals in 2022/23, and the HRA Capital expenditure and financing proposals in 2023/24 to 2026/27. The investment will be allocated to long standing repair and maintenance programmes to the existing council housing stock to ensure it remains operational and meets requirements for social housing such as the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. The report also sets out programmes to increase council house provision through new build and acquisition.

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

Impact	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation
	+	-	+	-	+	-	
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Consultation will be carried out to all householders affected by the schemes proposed in the report via the Council’s Major Works Agreement, and any individual needs will be accounted for as part of the scheme. Statutory Consultation via the Planning Process will be carried out for any schemes requiring planning consent.

The Housing Service has ongoing working practices with other service areas within the Council and will be working closely with these to develop, design and deliver the capital investment programme over the next 4 years.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes  No

b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?

Yes  No

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes  No

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes  No

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**Q5** What is the potential risk of the initiative? (*Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...*)

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

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**Q6** Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

The programming, preparation, design and delivery of major repairs and improvements to the existing housing stock and the acquisition and the creation of new build properties will have an impact on the following Council services: Building Services, Procurement, Legal, Finance, Highways and Drainage, Corporate Property, Building Control, Social Services and Planning will all be involved in the schemes.

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**Q7** Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

The Council website holds public information on both refurbishment and new build projects. Public information is available on refurbishment schemes and compliance levels, in particular how many of the Council's housing houses meet the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. The website will require updates on compliance levels for the existing stock and updates on the delivery of new developments.

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**Q8** What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

## **Outcome of Screening**

The planned investment and programme of repairs and maintenance to council housing and the acquisition and creation of new housing as set out in the report to Council will result in improved housing standards for residents in Swansea by increasing the number of homes with modern facilities, providing bespoke repairs and aids to those with medical or specific needs, increasing thermal efficiency to ensure homes are healthy, providing renewable technologies to individual homes to reduce carbon emission, and make homes cheaper to run (and protecting tenants from current pressures of fuel increases). The programmes are supported by the Beyond Bricks and Mortar Team with many contracts providing training and employment opportunities to those who are long term unemployed or hard to reach. The Beyond Bricks and Mortar team work with agencies who target those who may otherwise experience economic inactivity. Overall the programme will secure social housing provision for future generations.

### **Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

An IIA Screening Form has been completed and a full IIA report is not required. Reaching and maintaining the Welsh Housing Quality Standard for the Council's housing and building and acquiring additional properties for the purposes of increasing the supply of

social housing in Swansea is an example of the 5 Ways of Working promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and will contribute towards the 7 well-being goals. The planned programme of repairs and More Homes activities set out in this report is about securing sufficient social housing for the long term and will benefit future generations. Reaching and maintaining the standard and increasing the supply has reduced carbon emissions, increased efficiency and supported employment and the local economy. Future investment will be subject to consultation with those individuals affected via the Council's Major Works Agreement and all schemes needing planning consent will be subject to normal planning procedures and the council's IIA process. Any individual requirement will be taken into account during the scheme liaison process.

Repairing and maintaining existing council housing will secure social housing for the long term, making them healthier and more efficient places to live. New build social housing will stimulate local economic growth, addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, jobs and skills which directly contributes to the council's obligations to act in a sustainable way pursuant to the WFGA.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the **'Integrated Assessment Implications'** section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: David Bratley</b>
<b>Job title: Housing Asset Manager</b>
<b>Date: 06/01/2023</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Carol Morgan</b>
<b>Position: Interim Head of Housing and Public Protection</b>
<b>Date:</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)



# Agenda Item 13.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council - 2 March 2023

### **Statutory Resolution – Resolutions to be Made in Accordance with the Regulations in the Setting of the Council Tax 2023/2024**

- (1) **THAT** the Council notes and adopts the statutory resolutions set out below.
- (2) **THAT** it be noted that at its meeting on 1st December 2023 the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2023/2024 in accordance with Regulations made under Section 33(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended) -
- a) 91,454 being the amount calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 3 of the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (Wales) Regulations 1995, as amended, as its Council Tax base for the year.
- b) Parts of the Council's Area –

Bishopston	2,006
Clydach	2,561
Gorseinon	3,232
Gowerton	1,966
Grovesend & Waungron	447
Ilston	343
Killay	2,131
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton	517
Llangyfelach	943
Llanrhidian Higher	1,559
Llanrhidian Lower	339
Llwchwr	3,411
Mawr	755
Mumbles	9,909
Penllergaer	1,418
Pennard	1,539
Penrice	483
Pontarddulais	2,299
Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,006
Port Eynon	467
Reynoldston	317
Rhossili	207
Three Crosses	698
Upper Killay	598

being the amounts calculated by the Council, in accordance with Regulation 6 of the Regulations, as the amounts of its Council Tax base for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.

(3) **THAT** the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2023/2024 in accordance with Section 32 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 -

- (a) £876,236,009 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(2)(a) to (d) of the Act.
- (b) £314,924,933 being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Sections 32(3)(a), 32(3)(c) and 32(3a) of the Act.
- (c) £561,311,076 being the amount by which the aggregate at (3)(a) above exceeds the aggregate at (3)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 32(4) of the Act, as its budget requirement for the year.
- (d) £417,812,562 being the aggregate of the sums which the Council estimates will be payable for the year into its Council Fund in respect of redistributed non-domestic rates, and revenue support grant less discretionary Non Domestic Rate relief.
- (e) £1,569.08 being the amount at (3)(c) above less the amount at (3)(d) above, all divided by the amount at (2)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 33(1) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.
- (f) £1,829,076 being the aggregate amount of all special items referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
- (g) £1,549.08 being the amount at (3)(e) above less the result given by dividing the amount at (3)(f) above by the amount at (2)(a) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special items relate.

(h) Parts of the Council's Area -

Bishopston	1,588.96
Clydach	1,607.90
Gorseinon	1,591.08
Gowerton	1,566.31
Grovesend & Waungron	1,575.93
Ilston	1,568.58
Killay	1,560.58
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton	1,564.36
Llangyfelach	1,580.89
Llanrhidian Higher	1,654.55
Llanrhidian Lower	1,568.25
Llwchwr	1,588.99
Mawr	1,641.80
Mumbles	1,609.97
Penllergaer	1,556.84
Pennard	1,608.33
Penrice	1,575.98
Pontarddulais	1,608.91
Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,588.85
Port Eynon	1,566.21
Reynoldston	1,588.51
Rhossili	1,573.23
Three Crosses	1,592.17
Upper Killay	1,580.85

being the amounts given by adding to the amount at (3)(g) above the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at (2)(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act, as the basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which one or more special items relate.

## (I) Parts of the Council's Area -

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £	Band I £
Bishopston	1,059.31	1,235.86	1,412.41	1,588.96	1,942.06	2,295.16	2,648.27	3,177.92	3,707.57
Clydach	1,071.93	1,250.59	1,429.24	1,607.90	1,965.21	2,322.52	2,679.83	3,215.80	3,751.77
Gorseinon	1,060.72	1,237.51	1,414.29	1,591.08	1,944.65	2,298.23	2,651.80	3,182.16	3,712.52
Gowerton	1,044.21	1,218.24	1,392.28	1,566.31	1,914.38	2,262.45	2,610.52	3,132.62	3,654.72
Grovesend & Waungron	1,050.62	1,225.72	1,400.83	1,575.93	1,926.14	2,276.34	2,626.55	3,151.86	3,677.17
Ilston	1,045.72	1,220.01	1,394.29	1,568.58	1,917.15	2,265.73	2,614.30	3,137.16	3,660.02
Killay	1,040.39	1,213.78	1,387.18	1,560.58	1,907.38	2,254.17	2,600.97	3,121.16	3,641.35
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton	1,042.91	1,216.72	1,390.54	1,564.36	1,912.00	2,259.63	2,607.27	3,128.72	3,650.17
Llangyfelach	1,053.93	1,229.58	1,405.24	1,580.89	1,932.20	2,283.51	2,634.82	3,161.78	3,688.74
Llanrhidian Higher	1,103.03	1,286.87	1,470.71	1,654.55	2,022.23	2,389.91	2,757.58	3,309.10	3,860.62
Llanrhidian Lower	1,045.50	1,219.75	1,394.00	1,568.25	1,916.75	2,265.25	2,613.75	3,136.50	3,659.25
Llwchwr	1,059.33	1,235.88	1,412.44	1,588.99	1,942.10	2,295.21	2,648.32	3,177.98	3,707.64
Mawr	1,094.53	1,276.96	1,459.38	1,641.80	2,006.64	2,371.49	2,736.33	3,283.60	3,830.87
Mumbles	1,073.31	1,252.20	1,431.08	1,609.97	1,967.74	2,325.51	2,683.28	3,219.94	3,756.60
Penllergaer	1,037.89	1,210.88	1,383.86	1,556.84	1,902.80	2,248.77	2,594.73	3,113.68	3,632.63
Pennard	1,072.22	1,250.92	1,429.63	1,608.33	1,965.74	2,323.14	2,680.55	3,216.66	3,752.77
Penrice	1,050.65	1,225.76	1,400.87	1,575.98	1,926.20	2,276.42	2,626.63	3,151.96	3,677.29
Pontarddulais	1,072.61	1,251.37	1,430.14	1,608.91	1,966.45	2,323.98	2,681.52	3,217.82	3,754.12
Pontlliw & Tircoed	1,059.23	1,235.77	1,412.31	1,588.85	1,941.93	2,295.01	2,648.08	3,177.70	3,707.32
Port Eynon	1,044.14	1,218.16	1,392.19	1,566.21	1,914.26	2,262.30	2,610.35	3,132.42	3,654.49
Reynoldston	1,059.01	1,235.51	1,412.01	1,588.51	1,941.51	2,294.51	2,647.52	3,177.02	3,706.52
Rhossili	1,048.82	1,223.62	1,398.43	1,573.23	1,922.84	2,272.44	2,622.05	3,146.46	3,670.87
Three Crosses	1,061.45	1,238.35	1,415.26	1,592.17	1,945.99	2,299.80	2,653.62	3,184.34	3,715.06
Upper Killay	1,053.90	1,229.55	1,405.20	1,580.85	1,932.15	2,283.45	2,634.75	3,161.70	3,688.65
All other parts of the Council area	1,032.72	1,204.84	1,376.96	1,549.08	1,893.32	2,237.56	2,581.80	3,098.16	3,614.52

being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at (3)(g) and (3)(h) above by the number which, in the population set out in Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the number which in that proportion is applicable to dwellings listed in valuation band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, as the amounts to be taken into account for the year in respect of the categories of dwellings listed in the different valuation bands.

- (4) **THAT** it be noted that for the year 2023/2024 the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council, in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwelling shown below -

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £	Band I £
The Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales	216.31	252.37	288.42	324.47	396.57	468.68	540.78	648.94	757.10

- (5) **THAT** having calculated the aggregate in each case of the amounts at (3)(I) and (4) above, the Council, in accordance with Section 30(2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for the year 2023/24 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below –

	Band A £	Band B £	Band C £	Band D £	Band E £	Band F £	Band G £	Band H £	Band I £
<i>Bishopston</i>	1,275.62	1,488.23	1,700.83	1,913.43	2,338.63	2,763.84	3,189.05	3,826.86	4,464.67
<i>Clydach</i>	1,288.24	1,502.96	1,717.66	1,932.37	2,361.78	2,791.20	3,220.61	3,864.74	4,508.87
<i>Gorseinon</i>	1,277.03	1,489.88	1,702.71	1,915.55	2,341.22	2,766.91	3,192.58	3,831.10	4,469.62
<i>Gowerton</i>	1,260.52	1,470.61	1,680.70	1,890.78	2,310.95	2,731.13	3,151.30	3,781.56	4,411.82
<i>Grovesend &amp; Waungron</i>	1,266.93	1,478.09	1,689.25	1,900.40	2,322.71	2,745.02	3,167.33	3,800.80	4,434.27
<i>Ilston</i>	1,262.03	1,472.38	1,682.71	1,893.05	2,313.72	2,734.41	3,155.08	3,786.10	4,417.12
<i>Killay</i>	1,256.70	1,466.15	1,675.60	1,885.05	2,303.95	2,722.85	3,141.75	3,770.10	4,398.45
<i>Llangennith, Llanmadoc &amp; Cheriton</i>	1,259.22	1,469.09	1,678.96	1,888.83	2,308.57	2,728.31	3,148.05	3,777.66	4,407.27
<i>Llangyfelach</i>	1,270.24	1,481.95	1,693.66	1,905.36	2,328.77	2,752.19	3,175.60	3,810.72	4,445.84
<i>Llanrhidian Higher</i>	1,319.34	1,539.24	1,759.13	1,979.02	2,418.80	2,858.59	3,298.36	3,958.04	4,617.72
<i>Llanrhidian Lower</i>	1,261.81	1,472.12	1,682.42	1,892.72	2,313.32	2,733.93	3,154.53	3,785.44	4,416.35
<i>Llwchwr</i>	1,275.64	1,488.25	1,700.86	1,913.46	2,338.67	2,763.89	3,189.10	3,826.92	4,464.74
<i>Mawr</i>	1,310.84	1,529.33	1,747.80	1,966.27	2,403.21	2,840.17	3,277.11	3,932.54	4,587.97
<i>Mumbles</i>	1,289.62	1,504.57	1,719.50	1,934.44	2,364.31	2,794.19	3,224.06	3,868.88	4,513.70
<i>Penllergaer</i>	1,254.20	1,463.25	1,672.28	1,881.31	2,299.37	2,717.45	3,135.51	3,762.62	4,389.73
<i>Pennard</i>	1,288.53	1,503.29	1,718.05	1,932.80	2,362.31	2,791.82	3,221.33	3,865.60	4,509.87
<i>Penrice</i>	1,266.96	1,478.13	1,689.29	1,900.45	2,322.77	2,745.10	3,167.41	3,800.90	4,434.39
<i>Pontarddulais</i>	1,288.92	1,503.74	1,718.56	1,933.38	2,363.02	2,792.66	3,222.30	3,866.76	4,511.22
<i>Pontlliw &amp; Tircoed</i>	1,275.54	1,488.14	1,700.73	1,913.32	2,338.50	2,763.69	3,188.86	3,826.64	4,464.42
<i>Port Eynon</i>	1,260.45	1,470.53	1,680.61	1,890.68	2,310.83	2,730.98	3,151.13	3,781.36	4,411.59
<i>Reynoldston</i>	1,275.32	1,487.88	1,700.43	1,912.98	2,338.08	2,763.19	3,188.30	3,825.96	4,463.62
<i>Rhossili</i>	1,265.13	1,475.99	1,686.85	1,897.70	2,319.41	2,741.12	3,162.83	3,795.40	4,427.97
<i>Three Crosses</i>	1,277.76	1,490.72	1,703.68	1,916.64	2,342.56	2,768.48	3,194.40	3,833.28	4,472.16
<i>Upper Killay</i>	1,270.21	1,481.92	1,693.62	1,905.32	2,328.72	2,752.13	3,175.53	3,810.64	4,445.75
All other parts of the Council area	1,249.03	1,457.21	1,665.38	1,873.55	2,289.89	2,706.24	3,122.58	3,747.10	4,371.62

# Agenda Item 14.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council – 2 March 2023

### **Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential/Treasury Indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2023/24, Interim Year Treasury Management Review 2022/23 and Annual Report 2021/22**

<b>Purpose:</b>	To approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, Prudential Indicators, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2023/24 and note the Interim Year Treasury Management Review 2022/23
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Council approves the:  1) Approves the Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators (Sections 2-7) and  2) Approves the Investment Strategy (Section 8) and  3) Approves the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Statement (Section 9)  4) Notes the Interim Year Treasury Management Review 2022/23 (Appendix H)  5) Notes the Annual Treasury Management Report 2021/22 (Appendix I)
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jeff Dong
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This strategy statement has been prepared in accordance with the revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice adopted by this Council in 2010 which has been recently revised in 2021. The Council's Treasury Management Strategy will be received and reviewed annually by Council and there will also be an interim year report providing summary of progress against that strategy.

The aim of these reporting arrangements is to ensure that those with ultimate responsibility for the scrutiny of the Treasury Management function appreciate fully the implications of the Treasury Management policies and activities, and that those implementing policies and executing transactions have properly fulfilled their responsibilities with regard to delegation and reporting. CIPFA has adopted the following as its definition of treasury management

*“The management of the organisation’s borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks”*

## 1.2 CIPFA Prudential Code – Revised 2021

CIPFA amended the Code in 2021. The changes were

- Minor changes to the treasury indicators which were initially developed in 2004
- Additional prudential indicators including the liability benchmark and ratio of net investment income/ net revenue stream
- Clarifying that the definition of ‘Investments’ above includes:-
- Treasury Management investments (as historically included in this Strategy, as well as
- investments made for policy reasons and managed outside of normal treasury management activity.
- Introduction of additional reporting to Council from 2023/24 re. treasury management activity

## 1.3 The latter changes are primarily in response to increasing commercialisation activities undertaken by Local authorities. Examples of investments made for policy reasons and managed outside of normal treasury management activity include:-

- ‘service investments’ held in the course of provision and for the purposes of operational services
- ‘commercial investments’ which are taken mainly for financial reasons. These may be shares and loans in business structures e.g. subsidiaries; investments explicitly taken with the aim of making a financial surplus for the Council; non financial assets such as investment properties held primarily for financial benefit

## 1.4 Where, in addition to treasury management investment activity, organisations invest in other financial assets and property primarily for financial return, the Code requires that these investments should be proportional to the level of resources available to the organisation and the organisation should ensure that robust procedures for the consideration of risk and return are applied to these decisions. Following the HM Treasury consultation and subsequently issued

guidance, PWLB borrowing is now prohibited to fund investments 'purely for yield'. The PWLB have circulated a set of criteria that needs to be satisfied to secure PWLB finance. This new guidance still allows PWLB borrowing to fund regeneration and operational schemes where they are clearly not undertaken for yield only.

- 1.5 The Code requires that all investments have an appropriate investment management and risk management framework. This includes making it explicit in any decision making:-
- the powers under which investment is made
  - the governance process including arrangements in place to ensure appropriate due diligence to support decision making
  - the extent to which capital invested is placed at risk
  - the impact of potential losses on financial sustainability
  - the methodology and criteria for assessing performance and monitoring process
  - how knowledge and skills in managing such investments is arranged and that these are monitored, reported and highlighted explicitly in the decision making process and due diligence.
- 1.6 The most significant investments currently held by the Council and managed outside of normal treasury management activity are the Council's Investment Properties, which include various freeholds within the City held for strategic property management purposes and (in some cases incidentally) income generation. The principles behind this strategy are outlined in the Capital Strategy, a separate report on this agenda
- 1.7 The Council will need to adhere to this strategy when considering any new proposals for non treasury investments as well as any updates to existing strategies, practices and reporting such as in the Annual Financial Statement of Accounts. It will be recommended that Council adopt the practices for non treasury investments identified in a separate section of the Treasury Investment Strategy below in 8.7.
- 1.8 The Local Government Act 2003 requires the Council to have regard to the Prudential Code and to set Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the next three years to ensure that the Council's capital investment plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable.

The Council is required to formally consider the Prudential and Treasury Indicators as detailed in section 2 of this report

- 1.9 The Act also requires the Council to set out its Treasury Strategy for borrowing and to prepare an Annual Investment Strategy as required by Investment Guidance issued subsequent to the Act. This strategy sets out the Council's policies for managing its investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. The management of the Council's Treasury



Management activities are in line with the CIPFA Treasury Management Revised Code of Practice.

1.10 The recommended strategy for 2023/24 is based upon a view on interest rates, having considered leading market forecasts provided by the Council's treasury advisor, Link Asset Services. The overall strategy covers:

- Treasury Limits 2022/23-2026/27
- Prudential / Capital/Treasury Indicators
- The current portfolio position
- Prospects for interest rates including a summary of the economic background
- The Borrowing Requirement
- The Borrowing Strategy
  - Gross v Net Debt Position
  - Liability benchmark
  - Policy on Borrowing in Advance of Need
- Debt Rescheduling
- The Annual Investment Strategy
  - Investment Policy
    - Including non Treasury Investments
  - Interest Rate Outlook
  - Creditworthiness Policy
  - Country Limits
  - Policy on the Use of External Advisors
  - Scheme of Delegation
  - Pension Fund Cash
- Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy Statement

1.11 A glossary of terms used within this report is attached at Appendix A.

## **2. Treasury Limits 2022/23 to 2026/27**

2.1 It is a statutory requirement under Section 33 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for the Council to set a balanced budget. Section 32 requires a local authority to calculate its budget requirement for each financial year to include the revenue costs that flow from capital financing decisions. This means that increases in capital expenditure must be limited to a level whereby increases in charges to revenue from: -

- increases in capital finance charges (principal and net interest) caused by increased borrowing to finance additional capital expenditure and
- any increases in running costs from new capital projects

are affordable within the projected revenue of the Council for the foreseeable future.

- 2.2 Under statute, the Council is required to set an Affordable Borrowing Limit i.e a limit which the Council can afford to borrow. In Wales, the Authorised Limit represents the legislative limit specified in section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003.
- 2.3 The Council must have regard to the Prudential Code when setting the Authorised Limit. This limit requires the Council to ensure that total capital investment remains within sustainable limits. The Authorised Limit must be set for the forthcoming financial year and the two successive financial years.
- 2.4 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities requires Councils to calculate treasury indicators (formerly prudential indicators) which demonstrate prudence in the formulation of borrowing proposals. These are defined as:
- The Operational Boundary :  
*“...is based on expectations of the maximum external debt of the authority according to probable not simply possible events and being consistent with the maximum level of external debt projected by the estimates....”*
  - The Authorised Limit :  
*“..the Authorised Limit must therefore be set to establish the outer boundary of the local authority’s borrowing based on a realistic assessment of the risks. The authorised limit is certainly not a limit that an authority will expect to borrow up to on a regular basis. It is crucial that it is not treated as an upper limit for borrowing for capital expenditure alone since it must also encompass borrowing for temporary purposes...”*
  - Upper limits for borrowing of fixed and variable rate loans.
  - Upper limit for investments for over 364 days.
  - Upper and lower limits for the maturity profile of the Council’s debt
  - Estimates of the ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream
  - Estimates of the capital financing requirement
- 2.5 In setting and revising Prudential Indicators the authority is required to have regard to:-
- Affordability e.g revenue implications
  - Prudence and sustainability e.g. implications for external borrowing
  - Value for money e.g. option appraisals
  - Stewardship of assets e.g. strategic planning
  - Practicality e.g. achievability of forward plans
- 2.6 It is a requirement of the Code that Prudential / Treasury Indicators are regularly monitored and systems are in place to achieve compliance.

<b>Treasury / Prudential Indicators</b>						
	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Probable</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>						
GF	145,348	134,004	105,153	56,301	53,828	28,183
HRA	41,717	37,046	50,851	60,245	60,070	62,155
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187,065</b>	<b>171,050</b>	<b>156,004</b>	<b>116,546</b>	<b>113,898</b>	<b>90,338</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>						
GF	464,493	513,018	560,029	551,737	547,607	539,993
HRA	160,964	157,234	155,476	175,934	206,079	241,867
Magistrates' Court **	1,150	1,104	1,060	1,018	977	938
Credit Arrangements *	1,140	786	364	140	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>627,747</b>	<b>672,142</b>	<b>716,929</b>	<b>728,829</b>	<b>754,663</b>	<b>782,798</b>
<b>Authorised limit for external debt</b>	837,467	828,829	854,663	882,798	882,798	882,798
<b>Operational boundary for external debt</b>	777,467	768,829	794,663	822,798	822,798	822,798
<b>Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure</b>	84.12%/ £518,667	100%/ £828,829	100%/ £854,663	100%/ £882,798	100%/ £882,798	100%/ £882,798
<b>Upper limit for variable rate exposure</b>	15.888%/ £98,000	40%/ £331,532	40%/ £341,865	40%/ £353,119	40%/ £353,119	40%/ £353,119
<b>Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days</b>	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000

\* The GF Capital Financing Requirements includes arrangements classified as credit arrangements ( finance leases) under International Financial Reporting Standards ( IFRS) requirements as of 2011/12.

However these continue to be budgeted on a revenue basis from the acquiring service and do not form part of the borrowing requirement.

\*\* Legacy Magistrates' Court debt which is wholly recharged and is included for completeness

<b>Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing during 2023/24-2026/27</b>		
	<b>Upper limit %</b>	<b>Lower limit %</b>
Under 12 months	60	0
12 months and within 24 months	60	0
24 months and within 5 years	60	0
5 years and within 10 years	90	0
10 years and above	95	15

<b>Ratio of Financing Costs to Net Revenue Stream</b>						
	<b>Actual 2021/22 %</b>	<b>Revised 2022/23 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2023/24 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2024/25 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2025/26 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2026/27 %</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	6.49	6.14	6.20	6.29	6.05	5.81
<b>HRA</b>	15.4	14.89	13.66	13.56	15.04	18.89

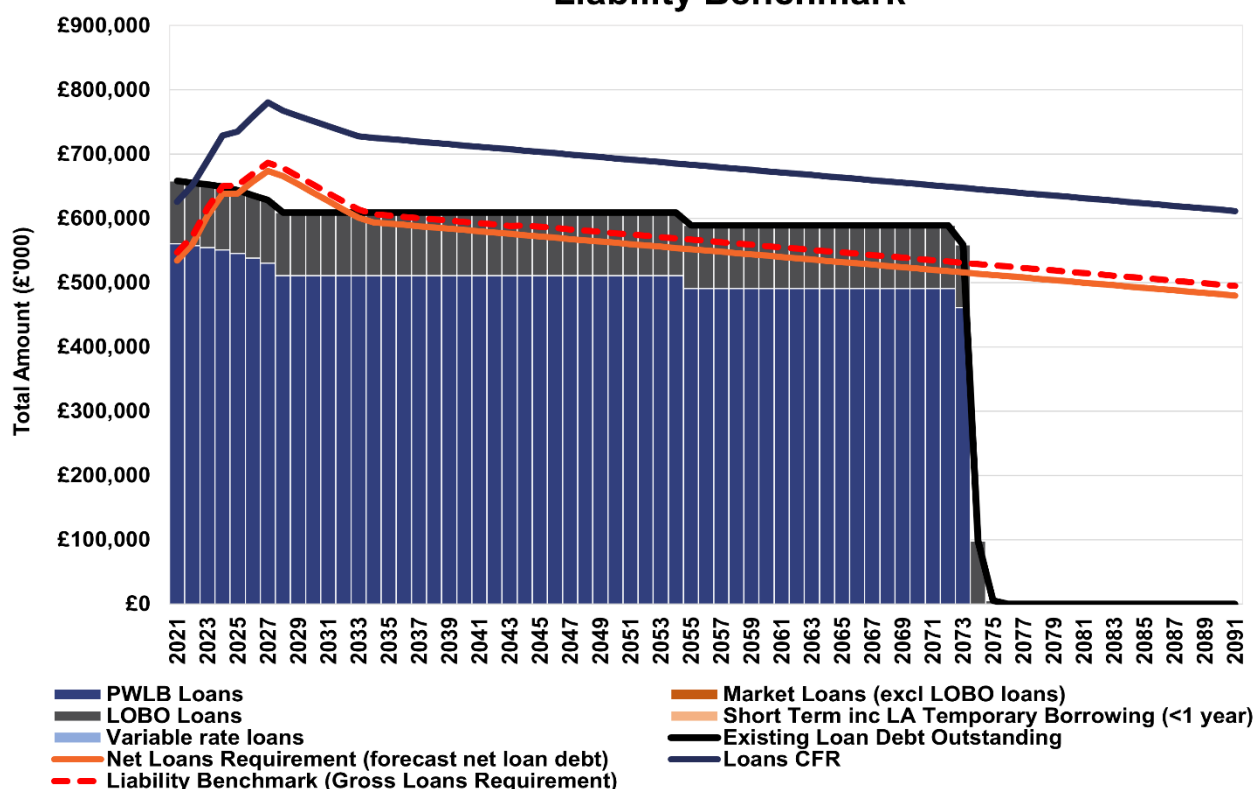
<b>Ratio of Net Investment Income Stream to Net Revenue Stream</b>						
	<b>Actual 2021/22 %</b>	<b>Revised 2022/23 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2023/24 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2024/25 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2025/26 %</b>	<b>Estimate 2026/27 %</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	0.39	0.94	0.88	0.81	0.71	0.61

#### Gross Debt v Capital Financing Requirement

The gross debt position versus the capital financing requirement is detailed below. The profile below assumes averaged external funding of the internalised borrowing and use of internal balances and by the borrowing requirement informed by the capital programme, however in all likelihood use of internal balances shall be maximised and the actual external borrowing shall be 'lumpier' in profile.

<b>Comparison of average gross debt and capital financing requirement</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>2026/27</b>
	<b>actual</b>	<b>probable</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>	<b>estimate</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Average Debt Outstanding (gross)</b>	654,674	654,674	664,674	694,674	724,674	754,674
<b>Capital Financing Requirement at 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>	627,747	672,142	686,620	737,102	770,540	795,726
<b>Net Position</b>	-26,927	17,468	21,946	42,428	45,866	41,052

## Liability Benchmark



### 3. The current portfolio position

3.1 The Council's projected debt portfolio position at 31/3/23 comprises:

	Principal outstanding 31 March 2023 £'000	Average rate of Interest %
Public Works Loan Board (fixed)	561,080	3.74
Money Market	98,000	4.10
Temporary	1761	1.49
Welsh Govt.	28,799	0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>689,640</b>	<b>3.55</b>
And managed separately as required by statute:		
<b>HRA Subsidy Buyout</b>	<b>73,580</b>	<b>4.25</b>

3.2 The Council's forecast investment portfolio at 31 March 2023 is as follows:

Managed Investments	Investments 31 March 2023	2022/23 Probable Investment Return	2023/24 Estimated Investment Return
	£'000	%	%
Internally Managed	195,870	1.46	3.5

#### 4. Prospects for Interest Rates

4.1 The Council's Treasury advisers (Link Asset Services) provided the following interest rate forecast for both short term ( bank rate) and long term (PWLB) interest rates as at Nov 2022.

Link Group Interest Rate View 08.11.22													
	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
BANK RATE	3.50	4.25	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.75	3.50	3.25	3.00	2.75	2.50	2.50
3 month ave earnings	3.60	4.30	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	3.80	3.30	3.00	3.00	2.80	2.50	2.50
6 month ave earnings	4.20	4.50	4.60	4.50	4.20	4.10	3.90	3.40	3.10	3.00	2.90	2.60	2.60
12 month ave earnings	4.70	4.70	4.70	4.50	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.50	3.20	3.10	3.00	2.70	2.70
5 yr PWLB	4.30	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.80	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.10
10 yr PWLB	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.40	3.30	3.20
25 yr PWLB	4.70	4.70	4.60	4.50	4.40	4.30	4.10	4.00	3.90	3.70	3.60	3.50	3.50
50 yr PWLB	4.30	4.40	4.30	4.20	4.10	4.00	3.80	3.70	3.60	3.40	3.30	3.20	3.20

#### 4.2 Economic Background

Attached at Appendix B is an economic background assessment provided by our Treasury advisers, Link Asset Services. This detailed assessment has informed the proposed strategies. Our central forecast reflects a view that the MPC will be keen to demonstrate its anti-inflation credentials by delivering a succession of rate increases. This has happened throughout 2022, but the new Government's policy of emphasising fiscal rectitude will probably mean Bank Rate does not now need to increase to further than 4.5%.

Further down the road, it is anticipated that the Bank of England will be keen to loosen monetary policy when the worst of the inflationary pressures have lessened – but that timing will be one of fine judgment: cut too soon, and inflationary pressures may well build up further; cut too late and any downturn or recession may be prolonged.

The CPI measure of inflation will peak at close to 11% in Q4 2022. Despite the cost-of-living squeeze that is still taking shape, the Bank will want to see evidence that wages are not spiralling upwards in what is evidently a very tight labour market. Wage increases, excluding bonuses, are currently running at 5.7%.

Regarding the plan to sell £10bn of gilts back into the market each quarter (Quantitative Tightening), this has started but will focus on the short to medium end of the curve for the present. This approach will prevent any further disruption to the longer end of the curve following on from the short-lived effects of the Truss/Kwarteng unfunded dash for growth policy.

In the upcoming months, our forecasts will be guided not only by economic data releases and clarifications from the MPC over its monetary policies and the Government over its fiscal policies, but the on-going conflict between Russia and

Ukraine. (More recently, the heightened tensions between China/Taiwan/US also have the potential to have a wider and negative economic impact.)

On the positive side, consumers are still estimated to be sitting on over £160bn of excess savings left over from the pandemic so that will cushion some of the impact of the above challenges. However, most of those are held by more affluent people whereas lower income families already spend nearly all their income on essentials such as food, energy and rent/mortgage payments

- 4.3 Yield curve movements have become less volatile under the Sunak/Hunt government. PWLB 5 to 50 years Certainty Rates are, generally, in the range of 3.75% to 4.50%. The medium to longer part of the yield curve is currently inverted (yields are lower at the longer end of the yield curve compared to the short to medium end).

We view the markets as having built in, already, nearly all the effects on gilt yields of the likely increases in Bank Rate and the poor inflation outlook but markets are volatile and further whipsawing of gilt yields across the whole spectrum of the curve is possible

#### **The balance of risks to the UK**

- The overall balance of risks to economic growth in the UK is to the downside. Indeed, the Bank of England projected two years of negative growth in their November Quarterly Monetary Policy Report.

#### **Downside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates include: -**

- **Labour and supply shortages** prove more enduring and disruptive and depress economic activity (accepting that in the near-term this is also an upside risk to inflation and, thus, rising gilt yields).
- **The Bank of England** acts too quickly, or too far, over the next two years to raise Bank Rate and causes UK economic growth, and increases in inflation, to be weaker than we currently anticipate.
- **UK / EU trade arrangements** – if there was a major impact on trade flows and financial services due to complications or lack of co-operation in sorting out significant remaining issues.
- **Geopolitical risks**, for example in Ukraine/Russia, China/Taiwan/US, Iran, North Korea and Middle Eastern countries, which could lead to increasing safe-haven flows.

#### **Upside risks to current forecasts for UK gilt yields and PWLB rates: -**

- The **Bank of England is too slow** in its pace and strength of increases in Bank Rate and, therefore, allows inflationary pressures to build up too

strongly and for a longer period within the UK economy, which then necessitates an even more rapid series of increases in Bank Rate faster than we currently expect.

- **The Government** acts too slowly to increase taxes and/or cut expenditure to balance the public finances, in the light of the cost-of-living squeeze.
- **The pound weakens** because of a lack of confidence in the UK Government’s fiscal policies, resulting in investors pricing in a risk premium for holding UK sovereign debt.
- Longer term **US treasury yields** rise strongly, if inflation numbers disappoint on the upside, and pull gilt yields up higher than currently forecast.

## 5. The In Year Borrowing Requirement

5.1 The following outlines the Council’s net capital borrowing / repayment requirements (as approved at time of writing) for 2022/23 to 2026/27: Actual borrowing shall not necessarily reflect the profile below. The actual timing of borrowing is informed by best Treasury Management practice, prevailing interest rates and cashflow demands.

	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27
<b>Borrowing and repayment requirements</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Probable</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>	<b>Estimate</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
To finance new capital expenditure by supported borrowing	6,372	6,347	6,355	6,355	6,355	6,355
To finance new capital expenditure by unsupported borrowing	42,193	55,952	57,988	26,447	45,125	45,269
To replace loans maturing/repaid prematurely/voluntary contributions	3,191	2,776	3,626	5,508	7,508	7,508
Less						
Repayments (MRP)	16,491	17,636	19,125	20,667	21,496	23,480
Set aside capital receipts						
<b>NET IN YEAR BORROWING /(REPAYMENT) REQUIREMENT</b>	<b>35,265</b>	<b>47,439</b>	<b>48,844</b>	<b>17,643</b>	<b>37,492</b>	<b>35,652</b>

5.2 The borrowing requirement above reflects known and approved planned capital expenditure to date as outlined in the “*The Capital Budget and Programme 2022/23 – 2026/27*” and the “*HRA Capital Programme 2021/22-2025/26*” reports elsewhere on this agenda and may or may not be funded in year or in advance in accordance with the borrowing in advance of need policy as opportunities to borrow affordably arise.



5.3 It can be seen from the “*The Capital Budget and Programme 2022/23 – 2026/27*”, that the capital programme contains a comprehensive programme of major construction projects requiring material capital funding :

A significant portion of the current capital programme is comprised of a number of major regeneration and community construction programmes being undertaken by the Authority:

- The continued investment in Swansea Schools through Band B of the QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme, which now has four completed projects, and one project under construction.
- Swansea Bay City Deal schemes, the completion of Phase 1 the North Block including the Arena with further elements due for completion during the coming 12 months and commencement of construction of Phase 2 Digital Village 71-72 Kingsway Offices
- A continuing programme of IT investment across the Council A significant programme of capital expenditure to assist the City’s economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

The additional capital investment identified above will attract significant grant funding (QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme and Swansea Bay City Deal), however the programme will still require material unsupported borrowing to enable completion alongside the use of capital receipts as they are realised. Furthermore some schemes have the potential to provide additional revenue streams of property income, or, subject to agreement, in due course, with Welsh Government, retained elements of non-domestic rates or possibly tax increment financing as further powers devolve to Welsh Government and then on to local government.

Notwithstanding this scale of ambition, each major scheme will, as is always the case, be considered on the overall merits of each business case, both in capital cost, and revenue income streams where appropriate, and unsupported borrowing will be undertaken on a phased basis within the overall medium/long term envelope of affordability.

Furthermore it has to be recognised that the scale of funding proposed to be injected by this Council, leverages in significant additional sums:

- £107m of Welsh Government funding for Band B schools
- a City Deal, worth, across the region, around £1.3 billion.

The Council continues to face significant challenges delivering the Capital Programme during uncertain economic times with high inflation impacting on capital budgets

Band B of the Welsh Government’s QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme represents the largest single component of capital investment incorporated within the proposed capital programme. The numerous schemes comprise new school builds and significant asset improvements for both English and Welsh medium Schools throughout Swansea.

The Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District project is one of nine projects comprising the wider City Deal. It has been developed by the Council, in partnership with University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD). The core aim of the project is to create a strong and vibrant digital city that will be the economic engine of the wider city region. There are 3 main components: an Innovation Matrix and Innovation Precinct project (led by UWTSD); a Digital Village, which includes 100,000 sq. ft. of flexible and affordable office accommodation for tech businesses (led by the Council); and a Digital Square and Arena which has delivered a 3,500 capacity Digital Arena and associated developments (also led by the Council). A 5 case business model was approved by UK and WG which sets out the project in great detail, including the benefits, costs, procurement process and income derived. After an FPR7 report to cabinet the Digital Square construction has been on site for 24 months and the programme shows completion of the North block in April 2023 and the St David's car park demolition in July 2023. Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) the Arena operator have signed a 30 year lease, have been operating the arena since March 2022 and have sold 145,000 tickets in a successful first season of events. With regard to Digital Village, a contractor has been procured and funding authorised through an FPR7 report and construction has started with a completion date of October 2023.

The Council, through the Shaping Swansea procurement process, has appointed Urban Splash as a long term development partner and entered into a 20 year Strategic Partnership Agreement. The partner and the Council will then progress the 7 sites as set out in the procurement process. Urban splash are progressing Swansea Central North and the Civic site.

- More Homes and Welsh Housing Quality Standards– A programme of council house refurbishment and a major programme of new council house building utilising new borrowing powers to invest in new Council housing stock.
- Major flood defence project in Mumbles
- Significant capital investment to help the City's economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

5.4 In considering the above, the Council shall determine that its plans are affordable, prudent and sustainable and shall formulate its Treasury Management, Borrowing & Investment Strategy and MRP Policy accordingly.

5.5 The above table in 5.1 details the net borrowing requirement for each financial year. In accordance with the Prudential Code, borrowing must be undertaken in line with a funding plan informed by the projected capital financing requirement. Borrowing may be financed from one or more of Public Works Loan Board loans, money market loans, other local authorities or internal loans. The precise choice and timing will depend on market conditions from time to time and will not necessarily mirror the profiling above. In practice, borrowing shall be optimised when interest rates offer long term value with operational financing being funded from internal cash balances as cashflow allows in accordance with our long term strategy.

Permitted sources of borrowing include:

On Balance Sheet	Fixed	Variable
PWLB	●	●
UK Municipal Bond Agency	●	●
Local Authorities	●	●
Banks	●	●
Pension Funds	●	●
Insurance Companies	●	●
UK Infrastructure Bank	●	●
Market (long-term)	●	●
Market (temporary)	●	●
Market (LOBOs)	●	●
Stock Issues	●	●
Local Temporary	●	●
Local Bonds	●	
Local Authority Bills	●	●
Overdraft		●
Negotiable Bonds	●	●
Internal (capital receipts & revenue balances)	●	●
Commercial Paper	●	
Medium Term Notes	●	
Finance Leases	●	●

- 5.6 Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Subsidy Reforms - Self Financing Settlement  
 As outlined in the report approved by Council on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2014 entitled “*Reform of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy System*” the Authority has entered into a Voluntary Agreement with Welsh Government to exit the current HRA subsidy system, resulting in more flexibility for the Authority in meeting affordable housing needs in the locale. In order to exit the current HRA subsidy system, a cash settlement amount had to be paid over to HM Treasury equal to a sum determined by formulae agreed in the Voluntary Agreement which resulted in a settlement figure of £73.58m for this Authority. The overriding principle of the HRA Reform is that all local housing authorities will be financially better off in revenue terms after the reforms.
- 5.7 The HRA reform settlement was required to be made to the Welsh Government on 1 April 2015 which was subject to a separate borrowing strategy dictated by the terms outlined in the Voluntary Agreement. The Council borrowed £73.58m from the PWLB at the agreed interest rate of 4.25% and remitted this total amount to Welsh Government on April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015.
- 5.8 The servicing and amortisation of this pool of debt shall be managed completely separately from the remainder of the pooled ( GF and HRA) debt portfolio as required by statute and this shall be recharged directly to the HRA.

## **6. Borrowing Strategy**

- 6.1 PWLB borrowing interest rates have been on an upward trajectory in 2022 exacerbated by the Autumn mini budget. Now in retrospect the decision that the S 151 Officer made to take advantage of the unprecedented historically low interest rates and draw down £120m of PWLB borrowing in 2021/22 at historically the lowest interest rates ever drawn down by this Authority (averaging 1.93%) was highly prescient noting the subsequent swift and rapid interest rate movements upwards. . At time of writing, borrowing rates are marginally higher than investment rates. . Considering this, it has been determined that, cashflow dictating, the main strategy for funding the borrowing requirement for the capital programme shall be met by internalising the borrowing.
- 6.2 Short term savings (by avoiding material new long term external borrowing) will be weighed against the potential additional long term extra costs (by delaying unavoidable new external borrowing until later) when long term rates are forecast to be higher.( see 4.1)
- 6.3 However, notwithstanding the borrowing activity identified in 6.1 the overall strategy noting where rates are at the present time - with a view to minimising interest costs and the risk of default by counterparties - is therefore to continue to manage the borrowing requirement for operational financing with a view to averaging in the remainder of the borrowing requirement as cashflow and interest rates dictate in the short/medium term.
- 6.4 Policy on borrowing in advance of need  
The Council has only a limited power to borrow in advance of need which is delegated to the S 151 Officer to exercise.

In determining whether borrowing shall be undertaken in advance of need he shall:

- ensure that there is a clear link between the expected capital programme and maturity profile of the existing debt portfolio which supports the need to borrow in advance of need.
- the decision is informed by (up to) the forward 3 year projection of CFR and projected interest rate environment and modelled long term value secured, if undertaken.
- ensure the ongoing revenue liabilities created, and the implications for the future plans and budgets have been considered
- evaluate the economic and market factors that might influence the manner and timing of any decision to borrow
- consider the merits and demerits of alternative forms of funding
- consider the alternative interest rate bases available, the most appropriate periods to fund and which repayment profiles to use.

## **7. Debt Rescheduling**

- 7.1 The introduction of different PWLB rates on 1 November 2007 for new borrowing (as opposed to early repayment of debt) and the setting of a spread between the

two rates (of about 0.4%-0.5% for the longest period loans narrowing down to 0.25%-0.30% for the shortest loans), has meant that PWLB to PWLB debt restructuring is now much less attractive than before that date.

7.2 Due to short term borrowing rates being expected to be cheaper than longer term rates, there may be opportunities to generate savings by switching from long term debt to short term debt. However, these savings will need to be considered in the light of their short term nature and the likely cost of refinancing short term loans, once they mature, compared to the current rates of longer term debt in the existing debt portfolio. Any rescheduling needs to be considered net of any premium payable which in light of current interest rates is likely to be considerable.

7.3 In actively managing credit counterparty and interest rate risks, consideration will also be given to running down investment balances by repaying debt prematurely as short term rates on investments are likely to be significantly lower than rates paid on current debt.

However, a repayment strategy will only be considered if a loan repayment offers value in terms of discount / associated costs and does not compromise the Council's long term debt management policies. In this respect, we will need to be mindful of the potential future need to arrange new long term loans as market conditions change from time to time.

7.4 Notwithstanding the above, it is envisaged that there will not be any debt rescheduling opportunities in the medium term in the current PWLB portfolio, noting relative value and premiums payable to implement, however there may be opportunities to review the Authority's market debt dependent upon counterparty appetite. Opportunities are received from time to time and appraised and considered in line with 7.3. Any rescheduling decisions will be reported subsequently.

## **8. The Annual Investment Strategy**

### **8.1 Investment policy**

8.1.1 The Council will have regard to the National Assembly of Wales' Guidance on Local Government Investments ("the Guidance") issued in March 2004 (and subsequent amendments); CIPFA's Revised Treasury Management in Public Services Code of Practice and Cross Sectoral Guidance Notes ("the CIPFA Treasury Management Code") and the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 SI 1010(W.107). The Council's investment priorities are: -

- (a) to ensure the security of capital
- (b) to ensure the liquidity of investments.  
and only then
- (c) to maximise interest returns (yield) commensurate with (a) and (b)

The investment strategy will be implemented with security of investment as the main consideration. The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return on its investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.

8.1.2 The permitted investment criteria are outlined in Appendix C.

8.1.3 Amendments to the arrangements, limits and criteria detailed in Appendix C may be made by the Section 151 Officer during the year and advised to the Cabinet Member for Economy, Finance & Strategy in the quarter following action.

Appendix G is the list of UK financial institutions (counterparties) which satisfy the Council's minimum credit criteria as at 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023

8.1.4 It is anticipated that the Council will continue to hold internally managed sums during 2023/24 ensuring a suitable spread of investment risks. The Council has fixed benchmarks against which investment performance will be measured, i.e. the SONIA rate (internally managed). NB (*LIBOR and LIBID rates ceased in 2021, now replaced by SONIA (Sterling Overnight Index Average)*)

8.1.5 Interest Rate Outlook:

The long-term (beyond 10 years) forecast for Bank Rate stands at 2.5%. As all PWLB certainty rates are now above this level, borrowing strategies will need to be reviewed in that context. Better value can generally be obtained at the shorter end of the curve and short-dated fixed LA to LA monies should be considered. Temporary borrowing rates are likely, however, to remain near Bank Rate and may also prove attractive whilst the market waits for inflation, and therein gilt yields, to drop back later in 2023. :

Average earnings in each year	
2023/24	3.5%
2024/25	3.30%
2025/26	2.60%
2026/27	2.50%
Years 6 to 10	2.80%
Years 10+	2.80%

8.1.6 For its cash flow generated balances, the Council will seek to utilise its business reserve accounts and short-dated deposits (1-3 months) in order to benefit from the compounding of interest. However longer dated deposits will be made with appropriate counterparties if opportunities arise.

8.1.7 During and following the end of the financial year, the Council will report on its investment activity as part of its Interim Year Treasury Management Report and its Annual Treasury Management Report.

- The Interim Year Treasury Management Report 2022/23 is attached at Appendix H,
- and the Annual Report 2021/22 is attached at Appendix I

## 8.2 Creditworthiness Policy

This Council uses the creditworthiness service provided by our Treasury Management Advisors. This service has been progressively enhanced over the years and now uses a sophisticated modelling approach with credit ratings from all three rating agencies. Fitch, Moodys and Standard & Poors form the core element. Appendix C outlines the types of investment considered appropriate for investment and the absolute limits in each case.

Appendix C outlines the Council's creditworthiness policy. Details of Fitch's short and long term ratings are at Appendix D.

The creditworthiness service does not rely solely on the current credit ratings of counterparties but also uses the following as overlays: -

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies
- Credit Default Swaps (CDS) spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit watches, credit outlooks and CDS spreads in a weighted scoring system. The end product is a series of colour code bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are also used by the Council to determine the duration for investments.

All credit ratings will be monitored regularly with reference to the credit ratings report and updates. The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Capita creditworthiness service.

There will be no future use of a counterparty/investment scheme which fails the credit rating tests.

In addition to the use of credit ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in Credit Default Swaps against the iTraxx benchmark and other market data on a weekly basis. Extreme market movements may result in the downgrade of an institution or removal from the Council's lending list.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition the Council will also use market data, market information, information on government support for banks and the credit ratings of that government support and market intelligence re. other counterparties e.g other local authorities.

### 8.3 Country Limits

The Authority has not made any new overseas deposits for several years since the global financial crisis. Going forward, continued caution will be required when considering future opportunities to make overseas investments. There are no plans to make overseas investments at this time.

If such opportunities arise then the Council has determined that it will only use approved counterparties from countries with a minimum sovereign credit rating of AA- from Fitch Ratings (or equivalent from other agencies if Fitch does not provide a rating) The list of countries that qualify using this credit criteria as at the date of this report are shown in Appendix E. This list will be added to or deducted from should ratings change in accordance with this policy.

### 8.4 Policy on the use of external advisers

The Council uses the services of an external Treasury Management adviser namely - Link Asset Services Treasury Management Advisors.

The Council recognises that responsibility for Treasury Management decisions remains with the Council at all times and as such, we will ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon external advisers.

However it is recognised that there is value in employing external advisers in relation to Treasury Management services in order to acquire access to specialist skills and resources. The Council will ensure that the terms of their appointment and the methods by which their value will be assessed are properly agreed and documented, and subjected to regular review.

### 8.5 Scheme of Delegation

The role and responsibilities of the Council, Cabinet Member Financial Strategy and the S 151 officer are as follows:

#### (i) Council

- to receive and review reports on Treasury Management policies, practices and activities
- to receive and review the annual strategy.
- to receive and review amendments to the Authority's adopted clauses, Treasury Management policy statement
- to consider and approve the annual budget
- to receive and review the division of responsibilities

#### (ii) Cabinet Member for Financial Strategy to receive and review regular briefings/reports

- to receive and review the Treasury Management policy and procedures

#### (iii) Section 151 Officer

- to recommend clauses, Treasury Management policy for approval



- Implement and keep up to date operational Treasury Management practices
- to review the same regularly and monitor compliance
- to submit Treasury Management policy reports
- to submit budgets and budget variations
- to receive and review management information reports
- to review the performance of the Treasury Management function
- to ensure the adequacy of Treasury Management resources and skills, and the effective division of responsibilities within the Treasury Management function
- to ensure the adequacy of internal audit, and liaise with external audit
- to appoint external service providers.
- to ensure adequate Treasury Management training for elected members

#### 8.6 Pension Fund Cash

The Council will comply with the requirements of The Local Government Pension Scheme (Management and Investment of Funds) Regulations 2009 which was implemented on 1st January 2010. Any investments made by the Pension Fund will comply with the requirements of SI 2009 No 393. It is recognised that the risk profile of the Pension Fund differs from that of the Council and has outlined how it shall manage cashflow balances in its approved report to The Pension Fund Committee in June 2022 and the Treasury Management Team is delegated to implement the same whilst managing Pension Fund balances.

#### 8.7 Non Treasury Investments

The Council recognises that investment for non-treasury management purposes in other financial assets and property, requires careful investment management. Such activity includes loans supporting service outcomes, investments in subsidiaries, and in the case of Swansea Council in investment property portfolios which although do provide a yield are held predominantly for strategic property management purposes. The Council will ensure that all the organisation's investments observe its capital strategy, investment strategy or equivalent, and will set out, where relevant, the organisation's risk appetite and specific policies and arrangements for non-treasury investments if undertaking such investments. It is recognised that the risk appetite for these activities may differ from that for treasury management. The Capital Strategy Report also on this agenda outlines the strategy for these non treasury investments . HM Treasury have issued clear borrowing criteria in respect of accessing PWLB financing whereby it prohibits borrowing to finance property transactions primarily undertaken for yield.

#### 8.8 Markets in Financial Instruments Directive II ( MIFID II)

The EU Regulation MIFID II came into force in Jan 2018. Pre Jan 2018, this Authority was recognised as a professional investor. The new directive required financial institutions to recognise all investors as retail clients. This ensured maximum protections but also precluded some forms of investments, only available to professional clients. Financial Institutions may elect to opt up clients upon request, if they can demonstrate suitable professional competency and governance frameworks are in place. This Authority has successfully elected to opt up to professional status with all its counterparties and service providers.

## **9. Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement**

9.1 Capital expenditure is generally expenditure on assets which have a life expectancy of more than one year e.g. buildings, vehicles, machinery. It is inappropriate to charge the entirety of this expenditure in the year in which it is incurred i.e the expenditure benefits more than a single year of account. As such, the resulting costs are spread over several years. The manner of spreading these costs is through an annual Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which was previously determined under Regulation and now is determined under Guidance.

9.2 Statutory instrument WSI 2008 no.588 section 3 states that “..a local authority must calculate for the current financial year an amount of minimum revenue provision which it considers to be prudent,”

The statutory requirement to make a 2% MRP charge for the Housing Revenue Account share of the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) until 2020/21 when lifetime of asset shall be adopted as required by Housing Subsidy Buyout legislation is unchanged by this instrument.

9.3 Along with the above duty, the Welsh Assembly Government issued guidance in March 2008 which requires that a Statement on the Council’s Policy for its annual MRP should be submitted to the full Council for review before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate. The Council is legally obliged to ‘have regard’ to the guidance.

9.4 The Welsh Assembly Government guidance outlined four broad options to adopt for the calculation of MRP. They are:

- Option 1- Regulatory Method
- Option 2 - Capital Financing Requirement Method
- Option 3 - Asset Life Method
- Option 4 – Depreciation Method

The options and guidance are detailed at Appendix F.

9.5 The Council implemented the new Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) guidance in 2008/09 and revised its MRP Policy for 2019/20 in December 2018 in accordance with the main recommendations contained within the guidance issued by the Welsh Government

9.6 A large proportion of the MRP chargeable will relate to the historic debt liability (pre 2008/09) that historically was amortised on a 4% reducing balance ( indefinite timescale) will now be charged at the rate of 2.5%% straight line ( definite timescale, and equivalent to amortising over a 40 year asset life). The other capital expenditure funded using ‘unsupported borrowing’ will under delegated powers be subject to MRP under option 3 which will be charged over a period commensurate with the estimated useful life applicable to the nature of the expenditure or in accordance with the existing capitalisation directive.

9.7 Estimated useful life periods will be determined prudently under delegated powers having taken professional advice in relation to the asset in question. The Section

151 Officer reserves the right to determine useful life periods and prudent MRP in exceptional circumstances where the recommendations of the guidance would not be appropriate.

- 9.8 Going forward, it is proposed that all GF debt arising from capital expenditure supported by the WG through supported borrowing or the Local Government Borrowing Initiative will be charged MRP at 2.5% straight line ( equivalent to being amortised over a 40 year asset life) and all other capital expenditure and other 'capitalised' expenditure will be repaid under option 3 ( useful life) as appropriate unless otherwise superseded by any accompanying capitalisation directive/guidance. All HRA debt to be amortised at 2% until 2020/21 when new borrowing shall be amortised over the useful life of the asset ( equivalent to 2.5% annualised or 40 year asset life).

## **10. Legal Implications**

- 10.1 The Authority is under a duty to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. Failure to do so will be a breach of that duty. The statutory provisions and guidance imposing such a duty on the Authority are as set out in the main body of the Report.

## **11. Integrated Assessment Implications**

- 11.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to their own needs.

- 11.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 11.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as

poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

- 11.4 An integrated impact assessment screening has been undertaken and it concludes that there are no equality impact implications arising from this report. All future programs and schemes covered within this report will be subject to their own Integrated Impact Assessment process.

**Background papers:** The revised CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice 2011

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2011

The revised CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities 2021

**Appendices:** Appendix A – Glossary of Terms  
Appendix B – Treasury Advisors’ View On The Economic Background  
Appendix C – Investment Criteria and creditworthiness policy  
Appendix D – Credit Rating Agency Definitions  
Appendix E – Approved Countries for Investment  
Appendix F Minimum Revenue Provision Guidance  
Appendix G – Approved Internal Counterparty Lending List  
Appendix H- Interim Treasury Management Report 2022/23  
Appendix I – Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

## TREASURY MANAGEMENT – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

<b>Annualised Rate of Return</b>	Represents the average return which would have been achieved each year.
<b>Authorised Limit</b> <i>( can also be considered as the affordable borrowing limit)</i>	The authorised limit must be set to establish the outer boundary of the local authority's borrowing based on a realistic assessment of the risks. The authorised limit is certainly not a limit that an authority will expect to borrow up to on a regular basis. It is crucial that it is not treated as an upper limit for borrowing for capital expenditure alone since it must also encompass borrowing for temporary purposes. It is the expected maximum borrowing need, with some headroom for unexpected movement.
<b>Bank Rate</b>	The Official Bank rate paid on commercial bank reserves i.e. reserves placed by commercial banks with the Bank of England as part of the Bank's operations to reduce volatility in short term interest rates in the money markets.
<b>Base Rate</b>	Minimum lending rate of a bank or financial institution in the UK.
<b>Basis Points (bp)</b>	A basis point is 0.01 of 1% (100 bp = 1%)
<b>Borrowing</b>	In the Code, borrowing refers to external borrowing. Borrowing is defined as both:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Borrowing repayable with a period in excess of 12months</li> <li>• Borrowing repayable on demand or within 12months</li> </ul>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	The definition of capital expenditure starts with all those items which can be capitalised in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). To this must be added any items that have/will be capitalised in accordance with legislation that otherwise would not be capitalised. Prudential indicators for current and future years are calculated in a manner consistent with this definition.

<b>Capital Financing Charges (see financing costs also)</b>	These are the net costs of financing capital i.e. interest and principal, premium less interest received and discounts received.
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	The Capital Financing Requirement is simply the total outstanding capital expenditure, which has not yet been paid for from either revenue or capital resources. It is essentially a measure of the Council's underlying borrowing need.
<b>CIPFA</b>	The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. One of the leading professional accountancy bodies in the UK and the only one which specialises in the public services.
<b>Counterparty</b>	The organisations responsible for repaying the Council's investment upon maturity and for making interest payments.
<b>Credit Rating</b>	<p>This is a scoring system that lenders issue people with to determine how credit worthy they are.</p> <p>The Credit Rating components are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The AAA ratings through to C/D are long-term rating definitions and generally cover maturities of up to five years, with the emphasis on the ongoing stability of the institution's prospective financial condition. AAA are the most highly rates, C/D are the lowest. This Council does not invest with institutions lower than AA- for investments over 364 days</li> <li>2. F1/A1/P1 are short-term rating definitions used by Moody's, S&amp;P and Fitch Ratings for banks and building societies based on their individual opinion on an institution's capacity to repay punctually its short-term debt obligations (which do not exceed one year). This Council does not invest with institutions lower than F1/A1/P1 for investments under 364 days.</li> </ol>
<b>Debt</b>	For the purposes of the Code, debt refers to the sum of borrowing (see above) and other long-term liabilities (see below). It should be

	noted that the term borrowing used with the Act includes both borrowing as defined for the balance sheet and other long terms liabilities defined as credit arrangements through legislation.
<b>Discounts</b>	Where the prevailing interest rate is higher than the fixed rate of a long-term loan, which is being repaid early, the lender can refund the borrower a discount. This is calculated on the difference between the two interest rates over the remaining years of the loan, discounted back to present value. The lender is able to offer the discount, as their investment will now earn more than when the original loan was taken out.
<b>Financing Costs</b>	The financing costs are an estimate of the aggregate of the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interest payable with respect to borrowing</li> <li>• Interest payable under other long-term liabilities</li> <li>• Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing credited or charged to the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers (premiums and discounts)</li> <li>• Interest earned and investment income</li> <li>• Amounts required in respect of the minimum revenue provision plus any additional voluntary contributions plus any other amounts for depreciation/impairment that are charged to the amount to be met from government grants and local taxpayers</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Reporting Standards (FRSs)</b>	These are standards set by governing bodies on how the financial statements should look and be presented.
<b>Investments</b>	Investments are the aggregate of:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term investments</li> <li>• Short term investments (within current assets)</li> <li>• Cash and bank balances including overdrawn balances</li> </ul> <p>From this should be subtracted any investments that are held clearly and</p>

	explicitly in the course of the provision of, and for the purposes of, operational services.
<b>IMF</b>	International Monetary Fund
<b>LOBO (Lender's Option/ Borrower's Option)</b>	Money Market instruments that have a fixed initial term (typically one to ten year) and then move to an arrangement whereby the lender can decide at pre-determined intervals to adjust the rate on the loan. At this stage the borrower has the option to repay the loan.
<b>Managed Funds</b>	<p><u>In-House Fund Management</u> Surplus cash arising from unused capital receipts and working cashflows can be managed either by external fund managers or by the Council's staff in-house. The in-house funds are invested in fixed deposits through the money markets for periods up to one year.</p> <p><u>Externally Management Funds</u> Fund managers appointed by the Council invest surplus cash arising from unused capital receipts in liquid instruments such as bank certificates of deposit and government stocks. The fund managers' specialist knowledge should ensure a higher rate of earnings on the managed funds than would be otherwise obtained.</p>
<b>Maturity</b>	The date when an investment is repaid or the period covered by a fixed term investment.
<b>Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)</b>	The amount required by statute to be principal repayment each year.
<b>Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)</b>	This is a body set up by the Government in 1997 to set the repo rate (commonly referred to as being base rate). Their primary target (as set by the Government) is to keep inflation within plus or minus 1% of a central target of 2% in two year time from the date of the monthly meeting of the Committee. Their secondary target is to support the Government in maintaining high and stable levels of growth and employment.
<b>Money Market</b>	Consists of financial institutions and deals in money and credit.



	The term applied to the institutions willing to trade in financial instruments. It is not a physical creation, but an electronic/telephone one.
<b>Net Borrowing</b>	For the purposes of the Code, net borrowing refers to borrowing (see above) net of investments (see above).
<b>Net Revenue Stream</b>	Estimates for net revenue stream for current and future years are the local authority's estimates of the amounts to be met from government grants and local taxpayers.
<b>Operational Boundary</b>	This is based on expectations of the maximum external debt of the authority according to probable not simply possible – events and being consistent with the maximum level of external debt projected by the estimates. It is not a limit and actual borrowing could vary around this boundary for short periods.
<b>Other Long Term Liabilities</b>	The definition of other long term liabilities is the sum of the amounts in the Council's accounts that are classified as liabilities that are for periods in excess of 12months, other than borrowing (see definition above).
<b>Premature Repayment of Loans (debt restructuring/rescheduling)</b>	A facility for loans where the Council can repay loans prior to the original maturity date. If the loan repaid has a lower interest rate than the current rate for a loan of the same maturity period the Council can secure a cash discount on the repayment of the original loan. If the loan replaced has a higher rate of interest than the current rate for a loan of the same maturity period, a cash penalty is payable to the lender.
<b>Premia</b>	Where the prevailing current interest rate is lower than the fixed rate of a long term loan, which is being repaid early, the lender can charge the borrower a premium. This is calculated on the difference between the two interest rates over the remaining years of the loan, discounted back to present value. The lender may charge the premium, as their

	investment will now earn less than when the original loan was taken out.
<b>Prudential Code</b>	The Prudential Code is the largely self regulatory framework outlined by CIPFA for managing/monitoring capital investment in local government.
<b>Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)</b>	A Government agency which provides loans to local authorities. Each year, it issues a circular setting out the basis on which loans will be made available. Loans can be either at a fixed rate or on a variable rate basis. They can be repaid on either an annuity, equal instalment of principal or maturity basis. The interest rate charged is linked to the cost at which the Government itself borrows.
<b>Risk</b>	<p><u>Counterparty Credit Risk</u> The risk that a counterparty defaults on its obligations.</p> <p><u>Inflation Risk</u> The risk that growth in the Authority's investment income does not keep pace with the effects of inflation on its expenditure.</p> <p><u>Interest Rate Risk</u> The risk that changes in rates of interest creates an unexpected or unbudgeted burden on the Council's finances.</p> <p><u>Liquidity Risk</u> The risk that cash will not be available when it is needed.</p> <p><u>Operational Risk</u> The risk of loss through fraud, error, corruption, system failure or other eventualities in Treasury Management dealings, and failure to maintain effective contingency management arrangements.</p> <p><u>Refinancing Risk</u> The risk that the Authority is unable to replace its maturing funding arrangements on appropriate terms.</p>

<b>Set Aside Capital Receipts</b>	A proportion of money received by the Council for the sale of fixed assets must be set aside to repay debt.
<b>SONIA ( sterling overnight index average)</b>	<p>Sterling Overnight Index Average, abbreviated SONIA, is the effective overnight <a href="#">interest rate</a> paid by banks for <a href="#">unsecured</a> transactions in the British sterling market. It is used for overnight funding for trades that occur in off-hours and represents the depth of overnight business in the marketplace.</p> <p>It offers an alternative to LIBOR as a <a href="#">benchmark</a> interest rate for financial transactions.</p>
<b>SORP</b>	Statement of Recommended Practice, published by CIPFA (Local Authority Accounting Body). This sets out guidelines regarding the Council's financial matters.
<b>Specified/Non Specified investments</b>	Specified investments are sterling denominated investments for less than 364 days as identified in Appendix C in line with statutory investment regulations. Non-specified investments are all other investments identified in Appendix C in line with statutory investment regulations.
<b>Supranational Bonds</b>	These are bonds issued by institutions such as the European Investment Bank and World Bank. As with Government bonds (Gilts) they are regarded as the safest bond investments with a high credit rating.
<b>Temporary Borrowing and Investment</b>	Loans which are capable of being repaid within one year. The term of the loans will be negotiated from overnight to 364 days.
<b>Treasury Management</b>	<p>Treasury Management has the same definition as in CIPFA's code of Practice of Treasury Management in the Public Services.</p> <p>"The management of the organisation's cash flows its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."</p>

**Yield Curve**

The line resulting from portraying interest rate graphically for a series of periods, e.g. 7days, 1month, 3, 6, 9, and 12months. When longer-term interest rates are higher than short-term rates the yield curve slopes upwards and is described as positive. When the opposite prevails the yield curve is referred to as inverse.

## TREASURY ADVISORS' VIEW ON THE ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Against a backdrop of stubborn inflationary pressures, the easing of Covid restrictions in most developed economies, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and a range of different UK Government policies, it is no surprise that UK interest rates have been volatile right across the curve, from Bank Rate through to 50-year gilt yields, for all of 2022.

Market commentators' misplaced optimism around inflation has been the root cause of the rout in the bond markets with, for example, UK, EZ and US 10-year yields all rising by over 200bps since the turn of the year. The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation is elevated but labour markets are extra-ordinarily tight, making it an issue of fine judgment as to how far monetary policy needs to tighten.

	<b>UK</b>	<b>Eurozone</b>	<b>US</b>
<b>Bank Rate</b>	3.5%	1.5%	3.75%-4.00%
<b>GDP</b>	-0.2%q/q Q3 (2.4%/y/y)	+0.2%q/q Q3 (2.1%/y/y)	2.6% Q3 Annualised
<b>Inflation</b>	11.1%/y/y (Oct)	10.0%/y/y (Nov)	7.7%/y/y (Oct)
<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	3.6% (Sep)	6.6% (Sep)	3.7% (Aug)

Q2 of 2022 saw UK GDP revised upwards to +0.2% q/q, but this was quickly reversed in the third quarter, albeit some of the fall in GDP can be placed at the foot of the extra Bank Holiday in the wake of the Queen's passing. Nevertheless, CPI inflation has picked up to what should be a peak reading of 11.1% in October, although with further increases in the gas and electricity price caps pencilled in for April 2023, and the cap potentially rising from an average of £2,500 to £3,000 per household, there is still a possibility that inflation will spike higher again before dropping back slowly through 2023.

The UK unemployment rate fell to a 48-year low of 3.6%, and this despite a net migration increase of c500k. The fact is that with many economic participants registered as long-term sick, the UK labour force actually shrunk by c£500k in the year to June. Without an increase in the labour force participation rate, it is hard to see how the UK economy will be able to grow its way to prosperity, and with average wage increases running at 5.5% - 6% the MPC will be concerned that wage inflation will prove just as sticky as major supply-side shocks to food and energy that have endured since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on 22nd February 2022.

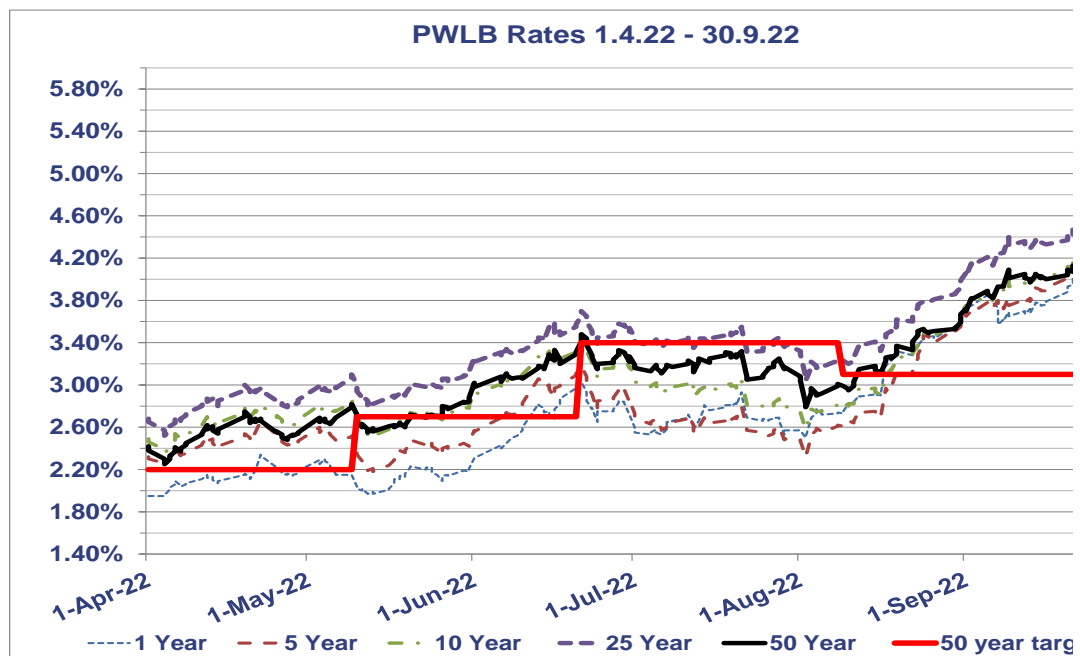
Throughout Q3 Bank Rate increased, finishing the quarter at 2.25% (an increase of 1%). Q4 has seen rates rise to 3% in November and the market expects Bank Rate to hit 4.5% by May 2023.

Following a Conservative Party leadership contest, Liz Truss became Prime Minister for a tumultuous seven weeks that ran through September and December. Put simply, the markets did not like the unfunded tax-cutting and heavy spending policies put forward by her Chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, and their reign lasted barely seven weeks before being replaced by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Chancellor Jeremy Hunt. Their Autumn Statement of 17<sup>th</sup> November gave rise to a net £55bn fiscal tightening, although much of the “heavy lifting” has been left for the next Parliament to deliver. However, the markets liked what they heard, and UK gilt yields have completely reversed the increases seen under the previous tenants of No10/11 Downing Street.

Globally, though, all the major economies are expected to struggle in the near term. The fall below 50 in the composite Purchasing Manager Indices for the UK, US, EZ and China all point to at least one if not more quarters of GDP contraction. In November, the MPC projected eight quarters of negative growth for the UK lasting throughout 2023 and 2024, but with Bank Rate set to peak at lower levels than previously priced in by the markets and the fiscal tightening deferred to some extent, it is not clear that things will be as bad as first anticipated by the Bank.

The £ has strengthened of late, recovering from a record low of \$1.035, on the Monday following the Truss government’s “fiscal event”, to \$1.20. Notwithstanding the £’s better run of late, 2023 is likely to see a housing correction of some magnitude as fixed-rate mortgages have moved above 5% and affordability has been squeezed despite proposed Stamp Duty cuts remaining in place.

In the table below, the rise in gilt yields, and therein PWLB rates, through the first half of 2022/23 is clear to see.



However, the peak in rates on 28<sup>th</sup> September as illustrated in the table covering April to September 2022 below, has been followed by the whole curve shifting ever lower. PWLB rates at the front end of the curve are generally over 1% lower now whilst the 50 years is over 1.75% lower.

	1 Year	5 Year	10 Year	25 Year	5
<b>Low</b>	1.95%	2.18%	2.36%	2.52%	:
<b>Date</b>	01/04/2022	13/05/2022	04/04/2022	04/04/2022	04.
<b>High</b>	5.11%	5.44%	5.35%	5.80%	:
<b>Date</b>	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28/09/2022	28.
<b>Average</b>	2.81%	2.92%	3.13%	3.44%	:
<b>Spread</b>	3.16%	3.26%	2.99%	3.28%	:

After a shaky start to the year, the S&P 500 and FTSE 100 have climbed in recent weeks, albeit the former is still 17% down and the FTSE 2% up. The German DAX is 9% down for the year.

## **CENTRAL BANK CONCERNS – NOVEMBER 2022**

At the start of November, the Fed decided to push up US rates by 0.75% to a range of 3.75% - 4%, whilst the MPC followed a day later by raising Bank Rate from 2.25% to 3%, in line with market expectations. EZ rates have also increased to 1.5% with further tightening in the pipeline.

Having said that, the press conferences in the US and the UK were very different. In the US, Fed Chair, Jerome Powell, stated that rates will be elevated and stay higher for longer than markets had expected. Governor Bailey, here in the UK, said the opposite and explained that the two economies are positioned very differently so you should not, therefore, expect the same policy or messaging.

Regarding UK market expectations, although they now expect Bank Rate to peak within a lower range of 4.5% - 4.75%, caution is advised as the Bank of England Quarterly Monetary Policy Reports have carried a dovish message over the course of the last year, only for the Bank to have to play catch-up as the inflationary data has proven stronger than expected.

In addition, the Bank's central message that GDP will fall for eight quarters starting with Q3 2022 may prove to be a little pessimistic. Will the £160bn excess savings accumulated by households through the Covid lockdowns provide a spending buffer for the economy – at least to a degree? Ultimately, however, it will not only be inflation data but also employment data that will mostly impact the decision-making process, although any softening in the interest rate outlook in the US may also have an effect (just as, conversely, greater tightening may also).

**Creditworthiness Policy and Investment Criteria**

The Council applies the creditworthiness service provided by Link Asset Services. This service employs a sophisticated modelling approach utilising credit ratings from the three main credit rating agencies - Fitch, Moody's and Standard and Poor's. The credit ratings of counterparties are supplemented with the following overlays:

- credit watches and credit outlooks from credit rating agencies;
- CDS spreads to give early warning of likely changes in credit ratings;
- sovereign ratings to select counterparties from only the most creditworthy countries.

This modelling approach combines credit ratings, credit Watches and credit Outlooks in a weighted scoring system which is then combined with an overlay of CDS spreads for which the end product is a series of colour coded bands which indicate the relative creditworthiness of counterparties. These colour codes are used by the Council to determine the suggested duration for investments. The Council will therefore use counterparties within the following durational bands

- Yellow 5 years \*
- Dark pink 5 years for Enhanced money market funds (EMMFs) with a credit score of 1.25
- Light pink 5 years for Enhanced money market funds (EMMFs) with a credit score of 1.5
- Purple 2 years
- Blue 1 year (only applies to nationalised or semi nationalised UK Banks)
- Orange 1 year
- Red 6 months
- Green 100 days
- No colour not to be used

Y	Pi1	Pi2	P	B	O	R	G	N/C
1	1.25	1.5	2	3	4	5	6	7
Up to 5yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 2yrs	Up to 1yr	Up to 1yr	Up to 6mths	Up to 100days	No Colour



	Colour (and long term rating where applicable)	Money and/or % Limit	Time Limit
Banks /UK Govt debt*	yellow	£120m	5yrs
Banks	purple	£30m	2 yrs
Banks	orange	£30m	1 yr
Banks – part nationalised	blue	£35m	1 yr
Banks	red	£30m	6 mths
Banks	green	£30m / %	100 days
Banks	No colour	Not to be used	
Council's banker	-	£35m / %	5 yrs
Other institutions limit	-	£30m	1yr
DMADF	AAA	unlimited	6 months
Local authorities	n/a	£35m	5yrs
	Fund rating	Money and/or % Limit	Time Limit
Money market funds	AAA	£30m / %	liquid
Enhanced money market funds with a credit score of 1.25	Dark pink / AAA	£30m / %	liquid
Enhanced money market funds with a credit score of 1.5	Light pink / AAA	£30m / %	liquid

*\* Please note: the yellow colour category is for UK Government debt, or its equivalent, money market funds and collateralised deposits where the collateral is UK Government debt*

The Capita Asset Services' creditworthiness service uses a wider array of information than just primary ratings. Furthermore, by using a risk weighted scoring system, it does not give undue preponderance to just one agency's ratings.

Typically the minimum credit ratings criteria the Council use will be a Short Term rating (Fitch or equivalents) of F1 and a Long Term rating of A-. There may be occasions when the counterparty ratings from one rating agency are marginally lower than these ratings but may still be used. In these instances consideration will be given to the whole range of ratings available, or other topical market information, to support their use.

All credit ratings will be monitored before deals are undertaken and The Council is alerted to changes to ratings of all three agencies through its use of the Capita Asset Services' creditworthiness service.

- if a downgrade results in the counterparty / investment scheme no longer meeting the Council's minimum criteria, its further use as a new investment will be withdrawn immediately.
- in addition to the use of credit ratings the Council will be advised of information in movements in credit default swap spreads against the iTraxx benchmark and other market data on a daily basis via its Passport website, provided exclusively to it by Capita Asset Services. Extreme market movements may result in downgrade of an institution or removal from the Council's lending list.

Sole reliance will not be placed on the use of this external service. In addition this Council will also use market data and market information, information on any external support for banks to help support its decision making process.

## Investment Criteria for Specified and Non Specified Investments

1.1 Investments will be made in accordance with the following terms:

### 1.1.1 Specified Investments:

(All such investments will be sterling denominated, with maturities up to maximum of 1 year, meeting the minimum 'high' rating criteria where applicable and the principal sum to be repaid at maturity is the same as the initial sum invested other than investments in the UK Government.)

Instrument	Minimum Credit Criteria	Use	Max investment
Debt Management Agency Deposit Facility	--	In-house	£120M
Term deposits – UK government	--	In-house	£120M
Term deposits – other LAs	--	In-house	£30M with each counterparty
Term deposits – banks and building societies	Short-term F1,P1,A1, Long-term AA- or UK nationalised banks  Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	fund managers and In-house  12 months 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use	£30M with each counterparty/ per agreement
Term deposits – Banks nationalised by highly credit rated sovereign countries	Short-term F1,P1,A1, Long-term AA-  Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	fund managers and In-house  12 months 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use	£30M with each counterparty/ per agreement

Government guarantee on all deposits by high credit rated sovereign countries	Short-term F1,P1,A1, Long-term AA- or UK nationalised banks  Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	fund managers and In-house  12 months 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use	£30M with each counterparty/ per agreement
UK Government supported banking sector	Short-term F1,P1,A1, Long-term AA- or UK nationalised banks  Blue Orange Red Green No Colour	fund managers and In-house  12 months 12 months 6 months 100 days Not for use	£30M with each counterparty/ per agreement
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of 1 year	AAA	Fund Managers/in house	See 2 below/£25M with each counterparty
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AA	In-house on a 'buy-and-hold' basis.  Also for use by fund managers	£25M with each counterparty and per agreement
Bonds issued by a financial institution which is guaranteed by the UK government	AA-	In-house on a 'buy-and-hold' basis.  Also for use by fund managers	£25M with each counterparty  per agreement
Sovereign bond issues (i.e. other than the UK govt)	AAA	In- house  Fund Managers	£25M with each counterparty  per agreement
Corporate Bonds : [under SI 1010 (W.107)]	AA-	In- house  Fund Managers	£25M with each counterparty  per agreement
Gilt Funds and Bond Funds	AA-	In- house  Fund Managers	£30M  per agreement
Money Market Funds	AAA	In- house  Fund Managers	£25M  per agreement
Property/alternative asset funds	AA-	Fund managers	£20M

			per agreement
Floating Rate Notes	AA-	Fund managers	per agreement
Treasury Bills	N/A	Fund Managers	per agreement
Local authority mortgage guarantee scheme	Short-term F1,P1,A1	In-house	£25m with each counterparty

### 1.1.2 **Non-Specified Investments:**

A maximum of 35% will be held in aggregate of Council managed funds in non-specified investments. A maximum of 50% of aggregate funds managed by the Council's external fund managers will be held in non-specified investments.

<b>Instrument</b>	<b>Min Credit/Colour Criteria</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Maximum Period</b>	<b>Maximum Investment</b>
Term deposits – UK government (with maturities in excess of 1 year)		In-house	5 years	£25M
Term deposits – other Local Authorities (with maturities in excess of 1 year)		In-house	5 years	£25M with each counterparty
Deposits with banks and building societies covered by UK government guarantee	Long-term AA-  Blue Orange	Fund managers/ in-house	See 2 and 3 below  12 months 12 months	per agreement/£25m with each counterparty
Certificates of deposits issued by banks and building societies covered by UK government guarantee	Long-term AA-  Blue Orange	Fund managers/in house	See 2 and 3 below  12 months 12 months	per agreement/£25m with each counterparty
UK Government Gilts	-	Fund Managers/in house	See 2 and 3 below/5 years	per agreement /£25M
Treasury Bills	-	Fund Managers/in house	See 2 and 3 below/5 years	per agreement /£25M
Term deposits – banks and building societies (with maturities in excess of 1 year)	Long-term AA-  Blue Orange	In-house	5 years  12 months 12 months	£25M with each counterparty
Certificates of deposits issued by banks and building societies	Long-term AA-	fund managers/in-house	10 years	per agreement /£25M with

	Blue Orange		12 months 12 months	each counterparty
UK Government Gilts with maturities in excess of 1 year	AAA	Fund Managers/in house	10 years	See 2 below/£25M with each counterparty
Bonds issued by multilateral development banks	AA	In-house on a 'buy-and-hold' basis.  Also for use by fund managers	5 years  10 years	£25M with each counterparty and per agreement
Bonds issued by a financial institution which is guaranteed by the UK government	-	In-house on a 'buy-and-hold' basis.  Also for use by fund managers	5 years  10 years	£25M with each counterparty per agreement
Sovereign bond issues (i.e. other than the UK govt)	AAA	In- house  Fund Managers	5 years  10 years	£25M with each counterparty per agreement
Corporate Bonds : [under SI 1010 (W.107)]	Long-term AA-	In- house  Fund Managers	5 years  10years	£25M with each counterparty per agreement
Gilt Funds and Bond Funds	Long-term AA-	In- house  Fund Managers	5 years  10years	£15M per agreement
Money Market Funds	AAA	In- house  Fund Managers	n/a  n/a	£25M per agreement
Property/alternative asset funds	-	Fund managers	n/a	£20M per agreement
Floating Rate Notes	Long-term AA-	Fund managers	10 years	per agreement
Treasury Bills	N/A	Fund Managers	10 years	per agreement
Local authority mortgage guarantee scheme	Short-term F1,P1,A1 Long-term AA-,	In-house	10 years	£25m with each counterparty

**Fitch International Long-Term Credit Ratings**

International Long-Term Credit Ratings (LTCR) may also be referred to as Long-Term Ratings. When assigned to most issuers, it is used as a benchmark measure of probability of default and is formally described as an Issuer Default Rating (IDR). The major exception is within Public Finance, where IDRs will not be assigned as market convention has always focused on timeliness and does not draw analytical distinctions between issuers and their underlying obligations. When applied to issues or securities, the LTCR may be higher or lower than the issuer rating (IDR) to reflect relative differences in recovery expectations. The following rating scale applies to foreign currency and local currency ratings:

<b>Investment Grade</b>	<b>Definition</b>
AAA	Highest credit quality. 'AAA' ratings denote the lowest expectation of credit risk. They are assigned only in case of exceptionally strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is highly unlikely to be adversely affected by foreseeable events.
AA	Very high credit quality. 'AA' ratings denote expectations of very low credit risk. They indicate very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments. This capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.
A	High credit quality. 'A' ratings denote expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to changes in circumstances or in economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.
BBB	Good credit quality. 'BBB' ratings indicate that there are currently expectations of low credit risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered adequate but adverse changes in circumstances and economic conditions are more likely to impair this capacity. This is the lowest investment grade category.
<b>Speculative Grade</b>	<b>Definition</b>
BB	Speculative. 'BB' ratings indicate that there is a possibility of credit risk developing, particularly as the result of adverse economic change over time; however, business or financial alternatives may be available to allow financial commitments to be met. Securities rated in this category are not investment grade.
B	Highly speculative.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For issuers and performing obligations, 'B' ratings indicate that significant credit risk is present, but a limited margin of safety remains. Financial commitments are currently being met; however, capacity for continued payment is contingent upon a sustained, favourable business and economic environment.</li> <li>• For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for extremely high recoveries. Such obligations would possess a Recovery Rating of 'RR1' (outstanding).</li> </ul>
CCC	<p>For issuers and performing obligations, default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon sustained, favourable business or economic conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for average to superior levels of recovery. Differences in credit quality may be denoted by plus/minus distinctions. Such obligations typically would possess a Recovery Rating of 'RR2' (superior), or 'RR3' (good) or 'RR4' (average).</li> </ul>
CC	<p>For issuers and performing obligations, default of some kind appears probable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with a Recovery Rating of 'RR4' (average) or 'RR5' (below average).</li> </ul>
C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For issuers and performing obligations, default is imminent.</li> <li>• For individual obligations, may indicate distressed or defaulted obligations with potential for below-average to poor recoveries. Such obligations would possess a Recovery Rating of 'RR6' (poor).</li> </ul>
RD	<p>Indicates an entity that has failed to make due payments (within the applicable grace period) on some but not all material financial obligations, but continues to honour other classes of obligations.</p>
D	<p>Indicates an entity or sovereign that has defaulted on all of its financial obligations. Default generally is defined as one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure of an obligor to make timely payment of principal and/or interest under the contractual terms of any financial obligation;</li> <li>• The bankruptcy filings, administration, receivership,</li> </ul>

	<p>liquidation or other winding-up or cessation of business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The distressed or other coercive exchange of an obligation, where creditors were offered securities with diminished structural or economic terms compared with the existing obligation.</li> </ul>
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### ***Fitch International Short-Term Credit Ratings***

The following ratings scale applies to foreign currency and local currency ratings. A Short-term rating has a time horizon of less than 13 months for most obligations, or up to three years for US public finance, in line with industry standards, to reflect unique risk characteristics of bond, tax, and revenue anticipation notes that are commonly issued with terms up to three years. Short-term ratings thus place greater emphasis on the liquidity necessary to meet financial commitments in a timely manner.

<b>Short Term Rating</b>	<b>Current Definition</b>
F1	Highest credit quality. Indicates the strongest capacity for timely payment of financial commitments; may have an added "+" to denote any exceptionally strong credit feature.
F2	Good credit quality. A satisfactory capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, but the margin of safety is not as great as in the case of the higher ratings.
F3	Fair credit quality. The capacity for timely payment of financial commitments is adequate; however, near term adverse changes could result in a reduction to non investment grade.
B	Speculative. Minimal capacity for timely payment of financial commitments, plus vulnerability to near term adverse changes in financial and economic conditions.
C	High default risk. Default is a real possibility. Capacity for meeting financial commitments is solely reliant upon a sustained, favourable business and economic environment.
D	Indicates an entity or sovereign that has defaulted on all of its financial obligations.



## APPENDIX E

### Countries with approved Credit ratings as at Jan 2023 (NB subject to change and no overseas investments at this time)

#### AAA

- Australia
- Denmark
- Germany
- Luxembourg
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Singapore
- Sweden
- Switzerland

#### AA+

- Canada
- Finland
- U.S.A.

#### AA

- Abu Dhabi (UAE)
- France

#### AA-

- Belgium
- Hong Kong
- Qatar
- **U.K.**

## MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION

### 1. Government Guidance

The Welsh Assembly Government issued new guidance in March 2008 which requires that a Statement on the Council's policy for its annual MRP should be submitted to the full Council for approval before the start of the financial year to which the provision will relate.

The Council are legally obliged by section 21 (1b) to "have regard" to the guidance, which is intended to enable a more flexible approach to assessing the amount of annual provision than was required under the previous statutory requirements. The guidance offers four main options under which MRP could be made, with an overriding recommendation that the Council should make prudent provision to redeem its debt liability over a period which is reasonably commensurate with that over which the capital expenditure is estimated to provide benefits. The requirement to 'have regard' to the guidance therefore means that: -

Although four main options are recommended in the guidance, there is no intention to be prescriptive by making these the only methods of charge under which a local authority may consider its MRP to be prudent.

It is the responsibility of each authority to decide upon the most appropriate method of making a prudent provision, after having had regard to the guidance.

Where the CFR was nil or negative on the last day of the preceding financial year, the authority does not need to make an MRP provision. MRP in the current financial year would therefore be zero,

#### **Option 1: Regulatory Method**

Under the previous MRP regulations, General Fund MRP was set at a uniform rate of 4% of the adjusted CFR (i.e. adjusted for "Adjustment A") on a reducing balance method (which in effect meant that MRP charges would stretch into infinity). This option is available for the General Fund share of capital financing requirement which relates to capital expenditure incurred prior to 1 April 2008. It may also be used for new capital expenditure up to the amount which is deemed to be supported by the Welsh Assembly Government annual supported borrowing allocation. The use of the commutation adjustment to mitigate the MRP charge is also allowed to continue under this option.

#### **Option 2: Capital Financing Requirement Method**

This is a variation on option 1 which is based upon a charge of 4% of the aggregate CFR without any adjustment for Adjustment A, or certain other factors which were brought into account under the previous statutory MRP calculation. The CFR is the measure of an authority's outstanding debt liability as depicted by their balance sheet.

### **Option 3: Asset Life Method.**

This method may be applied to most new capital expenditure, including where desired that which may alternatively continue to be treated under options 1 or 2.

The guidance suggests that any new borrowing which receives no Government support and is therefore self-financed would fall under option 3

Under this option, it is intended that MRP should be spread over the estimated useful life of either an asset created, or other purpose of the expenditure. There are two useful advantages of this option: -

- Longer life assets e.g. freehold land can be charged over a longer period than would arise under options 1 and 2.
- No MRP charges need to be made until the financial year after that in which an item of capital expenditure is fully incurred and, in the case of a new asset, comes into service use (this is often referred to as being an 'MRP holiday'). This is not available under options 1 and 2.

There are two methods of calculating charges under option 3:

Equal instalment method – equal annual instalments which are calculated using a simple formula set out in paragraph 9 of the MRP guidance,

under this approach, the MRP is provided by the following formula

$A - B$  divided by  $C$

A is the amount of capital expenditure in respect of the asset financed by borrowing or credit arrangements

B is the total provision made before the current financial year in respect of that expenditure

C is the inclusive number of financial years from the current year to that in which the estimated life of the asset expires

Annuity method – annual payments gradually increase during the life of the asset with an appropriate interest rate used to calculate the annual amount

Under both options, the authority may make additional voluntary revenue provision and this may require an appropriate reduction in later years' MRP

In addition adjustments to the calculation to take account of repayment by other methods (e.g. application of capital receipts) should be made as necessary.

**Option 4: Depreciation Method**

Under this option, MRP charges are to be linked to the useful life of each type of asset using the standard accounting rules for depreciation (but with some exceptions) i.e. this is a more complex approach than option 3.

The same conditions apply regarding the date of completion of the new expenditure as apply under option 3.

**2. Date of implementation**

The previous statutory MRP requirements cease to have effect after the 2006/07 financial year. However, the same basis of 4% charge in respect of the GF share of CFR may continue to be used without limit until the 2009/10 financial year, relative to expenditure incurred up to 31/3/2008, with the MRP policy being formally revised in Dec 2018 to reflect a 2.5% annual charge going forwards from that date.

The guidance suggests that Options 3 and 4 should be applied to any capital expenditure which results in an increase in the CFR and does not relate to the authority's Supported Capital Expenditure.

The guidance also provides the authority with discretion to apply Options 3 or 4 to all capital expenditure whether or not supported and whenever it is incurred.

Any unsupported capitalised expenditure incurred after 1 April 2008 which gives rise to an increase in the GF CFR should be repaid by using option 3 as adapted by paragraphs 23 and 24 of the guidance.

**APPENDIX G**

**Active Internal Credit UK Counterparty List as at 6 February 2023**  
(subject to change)

Institution	Country	Bank/BS	Fitch	
			Ratings	
			L Term	S Term
Santander Financial Services PLC	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Bank of Scotland PLC	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Barclays Bank PLC (NRFB)	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Barclays Bank UK Plc (RFB)	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Close Brothers Ltd	UK	Bank	A-	F2
Goldman Sachs International Bank	UK	Bank	A+	F1
HSBC Bank PLC (NRFB)	UK	Bank	AA-	F1+
HSBC UK Bank PLC (RFB)	UK	Bank	AA-	F1+
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets PLC (NRFB)	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Lloyds Bank PLC (RFB)	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Santander UK PLC	UK	Bank	A+	F1
Standard Chartered Bank	UK	Bank	A+	F1
SMBC Bank International PLC	UK	Bank	A-	F1
Coventry Building Society	UK	BS	A-	F1
Leeds Building Society	UK	BS	A-	F1
Nationwide Building Society	UK	BS	A	F1
Skipton Building Society	UK	BS	A-	F1
Yorkshire Building Society	UK	BS	A-	F1
Debt Management Office	UK			
Local Authorities	UK			

**APPENDIX H**

**INTERIM YEAR TREASURY MANAGEMENT REPORT 2022/23**

**1 Background**

1.1 This report is presented in line with the recommendations contained within The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management which requires an interim year review of Treasury Management operations to be presented to Council

1.2 Treasury Management is defined as:

“The management of the local authority's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks. ” A glossary of terms is at Appendix 1.

1.3 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised November 2009) was adopted by this Council in February 2010.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

1. Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities.
2. Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
3. Receipt by the full Council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy - for the year ahead; a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year.
4. Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of Treasury Management decisions.
5. Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of Treasury Management strategy and policies to a specific named body.

This Interim Year Review Report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first half of 2022/23
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2022/23
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2022/23
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2022/23
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2022/23

## **2 Cashflow Management**

2.1 As previously reported, the Authority continues to lead in the distribution of Welsh Government grant aid in the wake of the pandemic and the emerging cost of living crisis, often funding the distribution of cash before receiving it from Welsh Government.

2.4 It can be seen the prudent, careful management of Council balances/reserves enables a nimble reactive treasury management function in times of crisis. The Council's Treasury Management function was able to address and meet all the demands above and continues to do so in the ongoing lockdown.

## **3 Economic Update**

- 3.1
- The second quarter of 2022/23 saw:
    - GDP revised upwards in Q1 2022/23 to +0.2% q/q from -0.1%, which means the UK economy has avoided recession for the time being;
    - Signs of economic activity losing momentum as production fell due to rising energy prices;
    - CPI inflation ease to 9.9% y/y in August, having been 9.0% in April, but domestic price pressures showing little sign of abating in the near-term;
    - The unemployment rate fell to a 48-year low of 3.6% due to a large shortfall in labour supply;
    - Bank Rate rise by 100bps over the quarter, taking Bank Rate to 2.25% with further rises to come;
    - Gilt yields surge and sterling fall following the "fiscal event" of the new Prime Minister and Chancellor on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.
  - The UK economy grew by 0.2% q/q in Q1 2022/23, though revisions to historic data left it below pre-pandemic levels.
  - There are signs of higher energy prices creating more persistent downward effects in economic activity. Both industrial production (-0.3% m/m) and construction output (-0.8% m/m) fell in July 2022 for a second month in a row. Although some of this was probably due to the heat wave at the time, manufacturing output fell in some of the most energy intensive sectors (e.g., chemicals), pointing to signs of higher energy prices weighing on production. With the drag on real activity from high inflation having grown in recent months, GDP is at risk of contracting through the autumn and winter months.
  - The fall in the composite PMI from 49.6 in August to a 20-month low preliminary reading of 48.4 in September points to a fall in GDP of around 0.2% q/q in Q3 and consumer confidence is at a record low. Retail sales volumes fell by 1.6% m/m in August, which was the ninth fall in 10 months. That left sales volumes in August just 0.5% above their pre-Covid level and 3.3% below their level at the start of the year. There are also signs that households are spending their excess savings in response to high prices. Indeed, cash in households' bank accounts rose by £3.2bn in August, which was below the £3.9bn rise in July and much smaller than the 2019 average monthly rate of £4.6bn.

- The labour market remained exceptionally tight. Data for July and August provided further evidence that the weaker economy is leading to a cooling in labour demand. Labour Force Survey (LFS) employment rose by 40,000 in the three months to July (the smallest rise since February). But a renewed rise in inactivity of 154,000 over the same period meant that the unemployment rate fell from 3.8% in June to a new 48-year low of 3.6%. The single-month data showed that inactivity rose by 354,000 in July itself and there are now 904,000 more inactive people aged 16+ compared to before the pandemic in February 2020. The number of vacancies has started to level off from recent record highs but there have been few signs of a slowing in the upward momentum on wage growth. Indeed, in July, the 3my/y rate of average earnings growth rose from 5.2% in June to 5.5%.
- CPI inflation eased from 10.1% in July to 9.9% in August, though inflation has not peaked yet. The easing in August was mainly due to a decline in fuel prices reducing fuel inflation from 43.7% to 32.1%. And with the oil price now just below \$90pb, we would expect to see fuel prices fall further in the coming months.
- However, utility price inflation is expected to add 0.7% to CPI inflation in October when the Ofgem unit price cap increases to, typically, £2,500 per household (prior to any benefit payments). But, as the government has frozen utility prices at that level for two years, energy price inflation will fall sharply after October and have a big downward influence on CPI inflation.
- Nonetheless, the rise in services CPI inflation from 5.7% y/y in July to a 30-year high of 5.9% y/y in August suggests that domestic price pressures are showing little sign of abating. A lot of that is being driven by the tight labour market and strong wage growth. CPI inflation is expected to peak close to 10.4% in November and, with the supply of workers set to remain unusually low, the tight labour market will keep underlying inflationary pressures strong until early next year.
- During H1 2022, there has been a change of both Prime Minister and Chancellor. The new team (Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng) have made a step change in government policy. The government's huge fiscal loosening from its proposed significant tax cuts will add to existing domestic inflationary pressures and will potentially leave a legacy of higher interest rates and public debt. Whilst the government's utility price freeze, which could cost up to £150bn (5.7% of GDP) over 2 years, will reduce peak inflation from 14.5% in January next year to 10.4% in November this year, the long list of tax measures announced at the "fiscal event" adds up to a loosening in fiscal policy relative to the previous government's plans of £44.8bn (1.8% of GDP) by 2026/27. These included the reversal of April's national insurance tax on 6<sup>th</sup> November, the cut in the basic rate of income tax from 20p to 19p in April 2023, the cancellation of next April's corporation tax rise, the cut to stamp duty and the removal of the 45p tax rate, although the 45p tax rate cut announcement has already been reversed.
- Fears that the government has no fiscal anchor on the back of these announcements has meant that the pound has weakened again, adding further upward pressure to interest rates. Whilst the pound fell to a record low of \$1.035 on the Monday following the government's "fiscal event", it has since recovered to around \$1.12. That is due to hopes that the Bank of



England will deliver a very big rise in interest rates at the policy meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November and the government will lay out a credible medium-term plan in the near term. This was originally expected as part of the fiscal statement on 23<sup>rd</sup> November but has subsequently been moved forward to an expected release date in October. Nevertheless, with concerns over a global recession growing, there are downside risks to the pound.

- The MPC has now increased interest rates seven times in as many meetings in 2022 and has raised rates to their highest level since the Global Financial Crisis. Even so, coming after the Fed and ECB raised rates by 75 basis points (bps) in their most recent meetings, the Bank of England's latest 50 basis points hike looks relatively dovish. However, the UK's status as a large importer of commodities, which have jumped in price, means that households in the UK are now facing a much larger squeeze on their real incomes.
- Since the fiscal event on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, we now expect the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to increase interest rates further and faster, from 2.25% currently to a peak of 5.00% in February 2023. The combination of the government's fiscal loosening, the tight labour market and sticky inflation expectations means we expect the MPC to raise interest rates by 100bps at the policy meetings in November (to 3.25%) and 75 basis points in December (to 4%) followed by further 50 basis point hikes in February and March (to 5.00%). Market expectations for what the MPC will do are volatile. If Bank Rate climbs to these levels the housing market looks very vulnerable, which is one reason why the peak in our forecast is lower than the peak of 5.50% - 5.75% priced into the financial markets at present.
- Throughout 2022/23, gilt yields have been on an upward trend. They were initially caught up in the global surge in bond yields triggered by the surprisingly strong rise in CPI inflation in the US in May. The rises in two-year gilt yields (to a peak of 2.37% on 21<sup>st</sup> June) and 10-year yields (to a peak of 2.62%) took them to their highest level since 2008 and 2014 respectively. However, the upward trend was exceptionally sharply at the end of September as investors demanded a higher risk premium and expected faster and higher interest rate rises to offset the government's extraordinary fiscal stimulus plans. The 30-year gilt yield rose from 3.60% to 5.10% following the "fiscal event", which threatened financial stability by forcing pension funds to sell assets into a falling market to meet cash collateral requirements. In response, the Bank did two things. First, it postponed its plans to start selling some of its quantitative easing (QE) gilt holdings until 31<sup>st</sup> October. Second, it committed to buy up to £65bn of long-term gilts to "restore orderly market conditions" until 14<sup>th</sup> October. In other words, the Bank is restarting QE, although for financial stability reasons rather than monetary policy reasons.
- Since the Bank's announcement on 28<sup>th</sup> September, the 30-year gilt yield has fallen back from 5.10% to 3.83%. The 2-year gilt yield dropped from 4.70% to 4.30% and the 10-year yield fell back from 4.55% to 4.09%.
- There is a possibility that the Bank continues with QE at the long-end beyond 14<sup>th</sup> October or it decides to delay quantitative tightening beyond 31<sup>st</sup> October, even as it raises interest rates. So far at least, investors seem to have taken the Bank at its word that this is not a change in the direction of monetary policy nor a step towards monetary financing of the government's

deficit. But instead, that it is a temporary intervention with financial stability in mind.

After a shaky start to the year, the S&P 500 and FTSE 100 climbed in the first half of Q2 2022/23 before falling to their lowest levels since November 2020 and July 2021 respectively. The S&P 500 is 7.2% below its level at the start of the quarter, whilst the FTSE 100 is 5.2% below it as the fall in the pound has boosted the value of overseas earnings in the index. The decline has, in part, been driven by the rise in global real yields and the resulting downward pressure on equity valuations as well as concerns over economic growth leading to a deterioration in investor risk appetite.

- 3.2 **PWLB RATES.** Gilt yields and PWLB rates were on a generally rising trend throughout H1 2022, the exception being a short rally in gilts in July/August. However, they rose exceptionally sharply towards the end of September.

The 50-year PWLB target certainty rate for new long-term borrowing started 2022/23 at 2.20% and finished the half year at 4.80%, albeit we forecast rates to fall back to 3.10% by the end of September 2025.

#### **4 Review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy**

- 4.1 The Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2022/23 was approved by Council in February 2022. The Council's Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the Treasury Management Strategy Statement, outlines the Council's investment priorities as follows in order of priority:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity
- Yield

- 4.2 The Council shall aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered only appropriate to invest with highly credit rated financial institutions, using our advisor's suggested creditworthiness appraisal approach, including sovereign credit rating and credit default swap (CDS) overlay information.

- 4.4 Borrowing rates and available investment interest rates have been on the upward trajectory in 2022/23 exacerbated by the mini budget in Sep 2022, with certain periods of extreme volatility, reflecting the political uncertainty prevailing each time. No borrowing has been undertaken in 2022/23 to date.

- 4.5 As outlined in Section 3 above, there is still considerable uncertainty and volatility in financial and banking markets, both globally and particularly in the UK, as it comes out of the of the pandemic and emerging inflationary environment. In this context, it is considered that the strategy approved in February 2022 is still appropriate in the current economic climate and has been reviewed whilst

considering and formulating the strategy for 2023/24 as funding for capital and cashflow requirements dictate.

4.6 Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)

HM Treasury made a shock determination on the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 affecting all future borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) which would now be subject to an additional 1.00% 'premium' over and above existing margins above prevailing Gilt yields, primarily in response and to deter exponential growth in borrowing to fund speculative investment by a small number of local authorities in England. Strong representations were made via WLGA, and WG about the negative impact this change would have on capital programmes in progress throughout local authorities in Wales.

4.7 Following the strength of representations, HM Treasury launched a consultation process on the PWLB borrowing process. The results of the consultation and accompanying guidance was issued in November 2020 when the 1.00% premium was removed. The accompanying guidance outlines what constitutes eligible expenditure for PWLB borrowing:

The guidance clearly prohibits 'investing primarily for yield' which it defines as:

*Investment assets bought primarily for yield would usually have one or more of the following characteristics:*

*a. buying land or existing buildings to let out at market rate*

*b. buying land or buildings which were previously operated on a commercial basis which is then continued by the local authority without any additional investment or modification*

*c. buying land or existing buildings other than housing which generate income and are intended to be held indefinitely, rather than until the achievement of some meaningful trigger such as the completion of land assembly*

The guidance DOES allow borrowing for regenerative purposes, which it defines as:

*Regeneration projects would usually have one or more of the following characteristics:*

*a. the project is addressing an economic or social market failure by providing services, facilities, or other amenities that are of value to local people and would not otherwise be provided by the private sector*

*b. the local authority is making a significant investment in the asset beyond the purchase price: developing the assets to improve them and/or change their use, or otherwise making a significant financial investment*

*c. the project involves or generates significant additional activity that would not otherwise happen without the local authority's intervention, creating jobs and/or social or economic value*

*d. while some parts of the project may generate rental income, these rents are recycled within the project or applied to related regeneration projects, rather than being applied to wider services*

*Preventative action would have all of the following characteristics:*

*a. the intervention prevents a negative outcome, such as by buying and conserving assets of community value that would otherwise fall into disrepair, or providing support to maintain economic activity that would otherwise cease*

*b. there is no realistic prospect of support from a source other than the local authority*

The guidance is also clear that PWLB borrowing cannot be used to replace other Council funds which are then used to finance the 'primarily for yield' investment.

## **5 Review of Investment Portfolio 2022/23**

5.1 In accordance with the Code, it is the Council's priority to ensure security of capital and liquidity, and to obtain an appropriate level of return which is consistent with the Council's risk appetite

5.2 A full list of internally managed investments held as at 31st Dec 2022, is shown in Appendix 3. To 31st Dec 2022, the portfolio has returned 0.1% against a SONIA benchmark rate of 0.05%

## **6 Review of Borrowing 2022/23**

6.1 The latest 3 year projected capital financing requirement (CFR) applicable for 2022/23 is £672.142m.. The total outstanding borrowing is now £654.674m0m

## **7 Review of Debt Rescheduling 2022/23**

7.1 Debt rescheduling opportunities are periodically evaluated in this unhelpful environment and current structure of interest rates of the debt portfolio. No debt rescheduling has been undertaken in 2022/23 to date.

## **8 Review of Compliance with Treasury & Prudential Limits 2022/23**

8.1 It is a statutory duty for the Council to determine and keep under review the "Affordable Borrowing Limits". The Council's approved Treasury and Prudential Indicators (affordability limits) are outlined in the approved Treasury Management Strategy Statement.

8.2 During the financial year to date the Council has operated within the Treasury limits and Prudential Indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices. Compliance with the Prudential and Treasury Indicators are shown in Section 9.

## 9.0 Prudential Indicators

<b>Capital Prudential Indicators</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Revised Estimate</b>
	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>		
GF	145,348	159,929
HRA	41,717	47,424
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>187,065</b>	<b>207,353</b>
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
GF	6.01	6.23
HRA	15.14	15.26
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>£'000</b>	<b>£'000</b>
GF	464,493	499,482
HRA	160,964	163,464
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>625,457</b>	<b>662,946</b>

<b>Treasury Management Prudential Indicators</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>
	<b>Outturn</b>	<b>Revised Estimate</b>
	<b>£'000 or %</b>	<b>£'000 or %</b>
Authorised limit for external debt	565,198	837,467
Operational boundary for external debt	565,198	777,467
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	82.32%/£467,198	100%/£838,197
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure	17.68%/£98,000	40%/£335,279
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	40,000	40,000

<b>Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing in 2022/23</b>			
	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>	<b>Actual</b>
Under 12 months	50%	0%	0.7
12 months and within 24 months	50%	0%	0.5

24 months and within 5 years	50%	0%	0.1
5 years and within 10 years	85%	0%	9.7
10 years and above	95%	15%	89

The treasury management prudential indicators identified above as:

- Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days
- Maturity Structure of fixed rate borrowing in 2022/23

Above figures are as at 30 Sep 2022. None of the above limits/Prudential Indicators have been breached during 2022/23 to date.

### **Investments as at 30/09/22**

#### **Counterparty**

	£
Cornwall Council	10,000,000
Coventry Building Society	7,000,000
Debt Management Office	68,000,000
Goldman Sachs International	20,000,000
Lloyds Bank	15,620,000
Lloyds Bank Corporate Markets	5,000,000
Middlesbrough Council	5,000,000
Plymouth City Council	5,000,000
Santander Bank	26,750,000
SMBC International Limited	5,000,000
Standard Chartered Bank (Sustainable Deposit)	10,000,000
Uttlesford District Council	4,500,000
	<b>181,870,000</b>

# Treasury Management Annual Report 2021/22

## Executive Summary

- 1.1 There is an in year capital financing requirement of £71m for 2021/22. As reported in last year's annual report as a post balance sheet date event, £120m of PWLB borrowing at an average interest rate of 1.93% was undertaken in 2021/22 taking advantage of historically low interest rates available at that time which represented the cheapest borrowing ever undertaken by this Authority.
- 1.2 The average interest rate on outstanding Council borrowing was 3.67% in 2021/22 down from 3.99% 2020/21
- 1.3 Internally Managed investments achieved a return of 0.15%. This represents an outperformance of +0.01% from the average SONIA benchmark rate of 0.14% returning £0.269m of investment income.
- 1.4 The Council has operated within all of the determined treasury and prudential limits outlined in Appendix 1.

## 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 Treasury Management in local government is regulated by the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services (the Code). The City and County of Swansea has adopted the Code and complies with its requirements. A glossary of terms used throughout this report is included at Appendix 2.
- 2.2 The primary requirements of the Code are the:
  - Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's Treasury Management activities
  - Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives
  - Receipt by the Council of an annual Treasury Management strategy report for the year ahead , a mid term update report and an annual review report of the previous year
  - Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring Treasury Management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of Treasury Management decisions to the Section 151 Officer.
  - Treasury Management, in this context, is defined as:

*“The management of the local authority’s cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of the optimum performance or return consistent with those risks.”*

- 2.3 The Council has previously received in Mar 2021 and updated in March 2022 the Treasury Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy and MRP Strategy for 2021/22 and The Revised MRP Policy originally approved by Council in Dec 2018.
- 2.4 The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities has been developed as a professional code of practice to support local authorities in determining their programmes for capital investment. The Code was updated in 2021. Local authorities are required by Regulation under Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003 to comply with the Prudential Code.
- 2.5 The objective of the Code is to provide a framework for local authority capital finance that will ensure for individual local authorities that:
- Capital expenditure plans are affordable
  - All borrowing and long term liabilities are within prudent and sustainable levels
  - Treasury Management decisions are taken in accordance with professional good practice
- 2.6 The Code includes a set of Prudential Indicators, which are designed to support and inform local decision-making. The 2021/22 Prudential & Treasury Management Indicators are detailed in Appendix 1.

### 3. Debt Portfolio

3.1 The Council’s external borrowing position at the beginning and end of the year was as follows:

	1 April 2021		31 March 2022	
	Principal £'000	Interest Rate %	Principal £'000	Interest Rate %
<b>Long Term Debt</b>				
PWLB - fixed rate	367,500	3.83	487,500	3.79
Money Market (LOBO)	98,000	4.10	98,000	4.10
Welsh Gov	24,647	-	29,382	-
<b>Short Term Debt</b>				
Market	60	0.29	102	0.12
External Bodies	1,411	0.73	1,684	0.28
Average rate		3.99		3.67
<b>HRA Buyout</b>				
PWLB – fixed rate	73,580	4.25	73,580	4.25
<b>Total Debt</b>	<b>565,198</b>		<b>690,248</b>	



3.2 The average external debt portfolio interest rate was 3.67%. ( 2020/21 3.99%)

## 4. Actual Borrowing 2021/22

4.1 The Treasury Management strategy 2021/22 originally agreed by the Council in March 2021 and updated in March 2022 projected a total capital financing requirement of £626m as at end of 2021/22.

The general overall strategy was to mitigate the 'cost of carry' in the prevailing economic environment and ensuring that the timing of undertaking external borrowing is such to ensure long term interest rate benefits. As such, having largely fulfilled its historic CFR requirement in 2018/19, no new borrowing was undertaken in 2020/21, however as reported last year as a post year end event, volatility in the GILT markets afforded some opportunistic borrowing undertaken in April, May and June 2021 which sought to mitigate the outstanding funding risk in the remainder of the capital programme approved in Feb 2021 by undertaking record low long term value borrowing at that time, another opportunity arose again in October 2021 whereby further borrowing was undertaken.

Therefore in April, May and June 2021, the S 151 Officer authorised **£75m** of PWLB long term borrowing which was drawn down from HM Treasury :

Date	Amount	Maturity Date	Interest Rate
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	£20m	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2070	1.96
13 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	£25m	12 <sup>th</sup> April 2071	1.95
28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	£15m	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2069	1.91
1 <sup>st</sup> June 2021	£15m	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2068	1.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£75m</b>		<b>1.94</b>

Further more to de-risking some of the funding risks extant re. the remaining capital programme and noting the emerging inflationary pressures ( energy, fuel, transportation, materials, food, labour markets) which made imminent short term interest rate rises all the more likely. Therefore the S 151 Officer gave the instruction to monitor the volatile Gilt market with a view to take the opportunity to mitigate further funding risk within the Council's approved capital programme and drawdown a further **£45m** of PWLB borrowing.

Therefore on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021, the S 151 Officer instructed the drawdown of £45m of PWLB long term borrowing:

Date	Amount	Maturity Date	Interest Rate
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021	£15m	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2068	1.94
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021	£15m	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2069	1.93
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2021	£15m	14 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2070	1.93
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£45m</b>		<b>1.93</b>

The borrowing identified above **NOW** represents the **cheapest long term borrowing ever undertaken by this Authority.**

## 5. Compliance with Treasury Limits

- 5.1 During the year, the Council operated within the limits set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy 2021/22 under the Prudential Code. The outturn for the prudential indicators are shown in Appendix J.

## 6. Actual Investments 2021/22

- 6.1 The Council manages its cashflow and core balance investments internally, having realised its cash balances held with its external cash fund managers previously. These balances were invested on the Money Market via brokers or directly with banks and building societies, other local authorities and the Debt Management Office (DMO) within the criteria previously approved. The balances held during the year were as follows:

Balance 1 April 2021	Balance 31 March 2022	Average Value 2021/22	Interest	Rate of Return	Benchmark SONIA
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	%
84,500	206,450	181,027	269	0.15	0.14

- 6.2 The interest achieved on internally managed investments was £0.269m or 0.15%. This return outperformed the benchmark SONIA by +0.01%.
- 6.3 As a further measure to mitigate and control risk following the financial crisis, the Authority determined to restrict investments to UK domiciled only banks and financial institutions in October 2008 resulting in an even smaller number of available counterparties to invest with. This policy was maintained in light of continued sovereign debt crises throughout Europe since.

## 7. Debt Repayment/Rescheduling

- 7.1 Market conditions are constantly monitored for opportunities to repay or reschedule debt in line with good Treasury Management practice. Appraising the current portfolio, no such opportunities arose in 2021/22 which would be economically beneficial to the Authority.

### Prudential & Treasury Management Indicators 2021/22

Prudential Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>			
GF	162,553	159,929	145,348
HRA	41,601	47,424	41,717
TOTAL	204,154	207,353	187,065
<b>Ratio of financing costs to net revenue stream</b>			
GF	5.79	6.23	6.01
HRA	12.93	15.26	15.14
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>			
GF	433,916	499,482	464,493
HRA	159,530	163,464	160,964
TOTAL	593,446	662,946	625,457

Treasury Management Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22
	Actual	Budget	Actual
	£'000	£'000 or %	£'000
Authorised limit for external debt	565,198	837,467	837,467
Operational boundary for external debt	565,198	777,467	777,467
Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure	82.66%/ 467,198	100%/ £838,197	84.12%/ 518,667
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure	17.34%/ £98,000	40%/ £335,279	15.88%/ 98,000
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days	0	40,000	0

<b>Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing in 2021/22</b>			
	<b>Upper Limit %</b>	<b>Lower Limit %</b>	<b>Actual %</b>
Under 12 months	60	0	0.7
12 months and within 24 months	60	0	0.5
24 months and within 5 years	60	0	0.1
5 years and within 10 years	90	0	9.7
10 years and above	95	15	89

The Treasury Management Prudential Indicators identified above as:

- Upper limit for fixed interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for variable interest rate exposure
- Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 364 days
- Maturity Structure of fixed rate borrowing in 2021/22

are shown as at balance sheet date 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, however it can be reported that none of the above limits were breached during 2021/22.

### **Investments as at 31/03/22**

#### **Counterparty**

	<b>£</b>
Cornwall Council	10,000,000
Coventry Building Society	15,500,000
Debt Management Office	77,100,000
Eastbourne Borough Council	5,000,000
Goldman Sachs International	20,500,000
Lloyds Bank	15,350,000
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	5,000,000
Middlesbrough Council	5,000,000
Santander Bank	20,000,000
SMBC International Limited	10,000,000
Standard Chartered Bank (Sustainable Deposit)	15,000,000
Warrington Borough Council	5,000,000
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	3,000,000
	<b>206,450,000</b>

# Agenda Item 15.



## Report of the Section 151 Officer

Council - 2 March 2023

### Capital Strategy 2022/23 – 2027/28

<b>Purpose:</b>	To approve the Capital Strategy which informs and shapes the six year capital programme.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Legal, Finance and Access to Services.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that: 1) The Capital Strategy 2022/23- 2027/28 is approved
<b>Report Author:</b>	Jeff Dong
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Deb Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the publication of the Revised CIPFA Prudential Code in Dec 2017, it is now a requirement for Authorities to produce a Capital Strategy in addition to its suite of reports which are required by Regulation which outline and support the capital and revenue budgets
- 1.2 The Capital Strategy has been developed to ensure that the Council can take capital expenditure and investment decisions in line with Council priorities and properly take account of stewardship, value for money, prudence, risk, sustainability and affordability. The Strategy, therefore, sets out the longer term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions are made and gives due consideration to both risk and reward and the impact on the achievement of priority outcomes. The Capital Strategy sets out the underlying principles in support of the capital programme presented to Council for approval on this same agenda. It seeks to ensure that each project is supportive of our corporate objectives, has clearly identified funding and has appropriate governance arrangements in place to support decision making and deliver the scheme.

1.3 The strategy covers capital expenditure, capital financing and asset management and is one of the key strategies alongside the more operational strategies for these and other areas including Treasury Management, Tax, Property Investment and service areas such as housing and other spending areas. It also gives an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. The Capital Strategy should support the delivery of the corporate objectives of the Authority and must complement and demonstrate clear links with the:

- The Corporate Plan
- Swansea: Achieving Better Together, (Post Covid Recovery Plan)
- The Revenue Budget Report
- The Capital Budget & Programme Report
- The Medium Term Financial Plan
- The Treasury Management, Investment Strategy and MRP Policy Statement Report

and have due regard to :

- The Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015

1.4 The Council's Corporate plan has the following pre-existing well-being priorities:

- **Safeguarding** people from harm - so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- Improving **Education and Skills** - so that everyone in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- Transforming our **Economy and Infrastructure** - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- **Tackling Poverty** - so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- Delivering on **Nature Recovery and Climate Change** - so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.
- **Transformation and Future Council development** - so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.

1.5 Post Covid

The Council has subsequently adopted the Swansea: Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy and Programme Framework (Recovery Plan) with which it can plan and deliver services and objectives in the next 5 years directly addressing how the City moves out of the pandemic. It is utilising this framework and its other planning tools that the Council employs to steer the City to recover from the aftermath of the effects of the Covid 19 global pandemic.

1.6 In formulating the detailed schemes within the programme of capital expenditure 2022/23- 2027/28 in the Capital Budget report , it can be demonstrated that all projects promote the objectives of at least one or more

of the above corporate priorities in 1.4 and included in the capital programme is significant additional capital expenditure to support the economic recovery of the City following the Covid 19 pandemic.

## 2. The Capital Programme 2022/23 – 2027/28

- 2.1 The Capital Budget and Programme 2022/23 – 2027/28 for the General Fund and HRA is reported in detail in The Capital Budget & Programme & HRA Capital Programme Reports on this agenda.

## 3. Asset Management Planning

- 3.1 The programme includes capital expenditure on the following categories of spend:

- Operational – supporting core business and service delivery
- Investment – to provide a financial return to the Council
- Regeneration/ Community & Recovery:
  - enabling strategic place shaping and economic growth
  - to support specific local community and regional projects
  - investing in the City to aid recovery from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic

- 3.2 Operational – Within the capital programme, is a comprehensive schedule of programmed routine repairs and maintenance both on the existing property and housing inventory and the significant portfolio of highways assets.

- 3.3 Investment – It is recognised that, over the long term property offers a sound total investment opportunity, (including yield in the form of contractually agreed rental/lease income and the potential for capital growth in the form of potential asset appreciating in value). The formation of the Property Investment Board has enabled the Authority to take advantage of investing in property with a view to making a financial return, based on robust business case analysis evaluating not only on financial returns but providing strategic control of key sites within the City boundaries.

- 3.4 Historically the PWLB has been the most economically advantageous form of capital financing for the Council. Following the HM Treasury consultation on the PWLB borrowing process, strict guidance has been issued by HM Treasury which strictly **prohibits** the use of PWLB borrowing for investing in property/commercial assets 'purely for yield'. These changes clearly affect the viability of the Council buying investment assets. However alternative financing (grants, capital receipts and commercial financing) may still be used to fund these 'yielding investments' if the investment metrics still support the business case. It is envisaged that these restrictions in PWLB borrowing shall require continued very robust business case appraisal and risk management to ensure any such investment is in the best interests of the Council. Any such investments shall be subject to the governance process identified in 5.1

### 3.5 Regeneration/Community & Recovery

A significant portion of the current capital programme is comprised of a number of major regeneration and community construction programmes being undertaken by the Authority:

- A continuing programme of IT investment across the Council
- The continued investment in Swansea Schools through Band B of the QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme, which now has four completed projects, and one project under construction.
- Swansea Bay City Deal schemes, the completion of Phase 1 the North Block including the Arena with further elements due for completion during the coming 12 months and commencement of construction of Phase 2 Digital Village 71-72 Kingsway Offices
- A significant programme of capital expenditure to assist the City's economic recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic

The additional capital investment identified above will attract significant grant funding (QED/Sustainable Communities for Learning Schools Programme and Swansea Bay City Deal), however the programme will still require material unsupported borrowing to enable completion alongside the use of capital receipts as they are realised. Furthermore some schemes have the potential to provide additional revenue streams of property income, or, subject to agreement, in due course, with Welsh Government, retained elements of non-domestic rates or possibly tax increment financing as further powers devolve to Welsh Government and then on to local government.

Notwithstanding this scale of ambition, each major scheme will, as is always the case, be considered on the overall merits of each business case, both in capital cost, and revenue income streams where appropriate, and unsupported borrowing will be undertaken on a phased basis within the overall medium/long term envelope of affordability.

Furthermore it has to be recognised that the scale of funding proposed to be injected by this Council, leverages in significant additional sums:

- £107m of Welsh Government funding for Band B schools
- a City Deal, worth, across the region, around £1.3 billion.

The Council continues to face significant challenges delivering the Capital Programme during uncertain economic times with high inflation impacting on capital budgets

Band B of the Welsh Government's QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme represents the largest single component of capital investment incorporated within the proposed capital programme. The numerous schemes comprise new school builds and significant asset improvements for both English and Welsh medium Schools throughout Swansea.



The Swansea City & Waterfront Digital District project is one of nine projects comprising the wider City Deal. It has been developed by the Council, in partnership with University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD). The core aim of the project is to create a strong and vibrant digital city that will be the economic engine of the wider city region. There are 3 main components: an Innovation Matrix and Innovation Precinct project (led by UWTSD); a Digital Village, which includes 100,000 sq. ft. of flexible and affordable office accommodation for tech businesses (led by the Council); and a Digital Square and Arena which has delivered a 3,500 capacity Digital Arena and associated developments (also led by the Council). A 5 case business model was approved by UK and WG which sets out the project in great detail, including the benefits, costs, procurement process and income derived. After an FPR7 report to cabinet the Digital Square construction has been on site for 24 months and the programme shows completion of the North block in April 2023 and the St David's car park demolition in July 2023. Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) the Arena operator have signed a 30 year lease, have been operating the arena since March 2022 and have sold 145,000 tickets in a successful first season of events. With regard to Digital Village, a contractor has been procured and funding authorised through an FPR7 report and construction has started with a completion date of October 2023.

The Council, through the Shaping Swansea procurement process, has appointed Urban Splash as a long term development partner and entered into a 20 year Strategic Partnership Agreement. The partner and the Council will then progress the 7 sites as set out in the procurement process. Urban splash are progressing Swansea Central North and the Civic site.

Cabinet through an FPR7 report approved the capital funding to reimagine Castle Square to create a step change in the quality of its public realm. An increased level of green space with up to 4 new commercial units will create a new destination which will make it more active, distinctive and vibrant in line with other regeneration investment which is taking place in the City centre. This scheme is currently in planning with construction procurement starting in January 23 and construction on site starting in 2023 subject to the outcome of the construction tender.

### 3.6 Schools Programme and Financing 2022/23 -2027/28

Band A of the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme (now called the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme) has drawn to a close, and Band B officially commenced on the 1 April 2019.

Band A was funded by a 50% contribution from the Welsh Government and a 50% contribution from the council towards a total of £51.507m (plus £150k Challenge Cymru funding).

Welsh Government approved the Council's Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) for Band B in December 2017; the funding for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is being provided through £600m capital and £500m revenue funding for the whole of Wales. The grant

intervention rate for capital projects is 65%, except special schools and PRUs which is 75%, and voluntary aided schools which is 85%.

The approval in principle of the SOP for Band B does not commit the council to the funding contributions until the final approval of any capital allocation from the Welsh Government which is subject to the submission of further detailed business cases in respect of each specific project, and specific approvals in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules.

The Band B programme envelope is £149.5m (if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded this amounts to £141.3m). Of this total, £124m is being sought from traditional capital funding, requiring (after allowance for realisable capital and other receipts) a net local funding requirement of £34.5m from unsupported borrowing. The remaining £25.19m (or £16.975m if the potential aided sector scheme is excluded) is expected to be delivered through the Mutual Investment Model (MIM), which would require no local capital funding contribution but incur an annual charge once the accommodation and facilities are completed. An equivalent local share of the capital cost for the MIM scheme excluding the voluntary aided sector would be £3.225m although the 19% local contribution would apply to the annual revenue charge.

The new builds for Education Other Than At School (EOTAS) at Cockett, known as Maes Derw, YGG Tan-y-lan and YGG Tirdeunaw, and the extension to provide increased capacity for YG Gŵyr and replace sub-standard accommodation, are all now completed and occupied by pupils.

The extension, remodelling and refurbishment of Bishopston Comprehensive School started on site in June 2020 and several phases have now been completed and occupied by pupils. The project is due to be fully completed in March 2023.

Good progress has been made with the feasibility and design development for YGG Bryn Tawe to provide additional capacity and the two MIM schemes to address condition and suitability issues at Gowerton and Olchfa secondary schools.

Planning and feasibility for future phases of the programme is underway, however, it is very likely that the scope of the remainder of the programme will be reduced as it will not be possible to deliver within the funding envelope due to the significant inflationary pressures and future uncertainty.

Welsh Government announced in November 2022 that the Sustainable Communities for Learning programme will now transition away from fixed bands of funding to a more agile rolling programme. This is expected to represent a 9 year capital programme, including an indicative funding forecast for the 9 years, in 3 year phases. At the latest, delivery partners must review and resubmit their Programme by March 2024, and it is anticipated that the remainder of Band B will form part of the early phases of the new rolling programme.

### 3.7 HRA More Homes, Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS), De-Carbonisation and Energy Efficiency

A programme of council house refurbishment and new council house building, utilising new borrowing powers to invest in new Council housing stock. The More Homes Strategy for providing new Council housing has been endorsed by Council.. Cabinet has approved a target of 1,000 new council homes from 2021-2031, and this 4 year programme will enable the acquisition and construction of around 340 new council homes. This will also include the acquisition of properties and land to develop for council and affordable housing. Delivery will be aided through partnerships which will increase capacity and pace in the programme. After having attained the Welsh Housing Quality Standard, the approved programme identifies the transition into WHQS Maintenance Phase, where the focus is on ensuring homes are safe and secure , in a good state of repair, adequately heated fuel efficient and well insulated and suit the requirements of the household. The Welsh Government will be introducing new standards that will require social landlords to further improve their housing stock in order to reduce occupancy borne carbon emissions and increase energy efficiency. The aim is to bring these into line with the Welsh Government's Decarbonisation agenda. Their Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World report sets out a number of recommendations and has an overall objective to reduce carbon emissions in social housing by 95%.and the current programme includes the introduction of solar panels and battery storage to planned schemes which will on average require £8.75m of investment each year across the 4 years. This investment is affordable within the HRA business plan. This investment will contribute towards reducing carbon emissions and create a platform for future measures but will not deliver carbon zero properties

### 3.8 Covid 19 Pandemic Response

The robust asset management planning processes outlined above in 1.3, 1.4 and 3.1. could not have foreseen the speed and depth of impact of the global Covid 19 pandemic which took hold in March 2020. It is testament to the inherent robust, resilient professional, efficient asset management, corporate building services, legal support, procurement, finance and treasury management services operating within the Council which allowed it to design, allow planning consent , contract with partners, finance, insure and build and handover a 1,000 bed Covid 19 Field Hospital in 3 months, being fully operational in June 2020. The facility has subsequently been modified to support the national Covid 19 vaccination and booster programme. Included in the capital programme are various initiatives to support the City and its citizens recover from the effects of the pandemic.

## **4. Commercial Activity & Property Investment**

4.1 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) defines investment property as property held solely to earn rentals or for capital appreciation or both. Returns from property ownership can be both income driven (through the receipt of rent) and by way of appreciation of the underlying asset value (capital growth). The combination of these is a consideration in assessing the attractiveness of a property for acquisition

4.2 In the context of the Capital Strategy, the council can use capital to invest in property and or infrastructure assets to provide a positive surplus/financial return. The council may fund the purchase of the property/infrastructure by borrowing money, (although as identified in 3.4 above, this now **precludes** PWLB). The income generated should cover the cost of servicing and repaying the borrowed money each year. If an annual surplus is generated, this can be used to support the council's budget position, and enables the council to continue to provide services for local people. The business case process shall now need to be a more challenging/rigorous in light of the PWLB position in relation to investing purely for yield. Alternative sources of commercial funding usually carry a premium compared to usual prevailing PWLB interest rates, therefore this sets a higher bar for the commercial returns expected from investing into the asset and as such the business case and risk management process shall need to continue to be extremely robust before any such investment is made.

4.3 The reasons for buying and owning property investments are primarily:

- Market and economic opportunity.
- Strategic control of key City sites
- Economic development and regeneration activity in the City ( all investment property is within the City & County boundaries)

And only incidentally:

- Financial returns to fund services to residents

4.4 Historically, property has provided strong investment returns in terms of capital growth and generation of stable income. Property investment is not without risk as property values can fall as well as rise and changing economic conditions could cause tenants to leave with properties remaining vacant

4.5 The strategy makes it clear that the council will continue to consider investments on a commercial basis and to take advantage of opportunities as they present themselves, supported by our robust governance process. However the source of finance needs to be robust and the interest rates available need to be viable and support each business case. In light of this, it is expected that commercial property investment activity shall be reduced.

4.6 The Authority has established an appropriate gateway mechanism through the property investment board to appraise and evaluate all such investment opportunities.

## 5. Governance & Oversight

5.1 The Council has a well-established corporate governance framework with which to manage, monitor and quality assure the delivery of the capital programme:

- Cabinet  
Approval of large schemes/programmes

- Capital Budget Monitoring Cycle
  - Quarterly monitoring of progress against budget/programme
- Contract Procedure Rules
  - Identifies most appropriate procurement route for project
- Financial Procedure Rules
  - Identifies appropriate scheme approval limits and budget virements/overspends thresholds
- Regeneration Programme Board
  - Monitors all regeneration programme schemes for progress against time, budget, quality
- Housing Futures Programme Board
  - Monitors all Housing schemes for progress against time, budget, quality
- Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Board
  - Monitors all Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme schemes for progress against time, budget, quality
- Property Investment Board
  - Identifies, appraises and approves property investment opportunities
- Risk Register
  - Corporate framework for monitoring corporate risks (including major capital schemes)
- Grants & Capital Manual
  - Outlines the corporate capital & grant protocols, procedures and practices for compliance by practitioners within the organisation

## **6. Capital Financing Strategy**

6.1 The Council's adopted capital financing strategy is to:

- maximise external private investment
- maximise external grant funding
- maximise capital receipt income
- finance self-funding income generative schemes
- minimise external borrowing
- minimise external funding costs

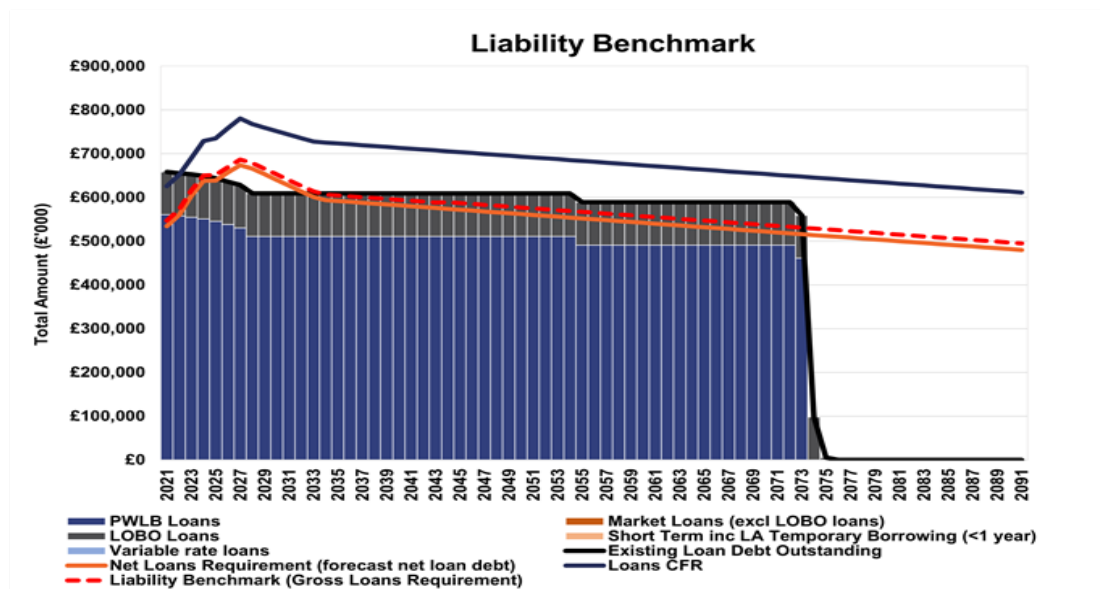
6.2 In the current difficult financial climate, capital allocations are constrained and the financing of prioritised schemes need to be carefully considered. In light of the continuing pressures on the revenue budget, unsupported borrowing is only to be utilised if there is a clear business case for expenditure and other sources of finance have been fully explored and ruled out. The corollary of austerity is that PWLB capital financing is still at relatively low levels, following

the removal in Nov 2020 of the PWLB 1% premium introduced in Oct 2019, however PWLB borrowing cannot now be used in 'purely for yield' property investments as outlined in 3.4. but may still be used for operational and regeneration capital schemes. It should be noted that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement already forecasts interest rate rises for the short/medium term which make the recent external PWLB funding drawn down particularly prescient.

## 7. Treasury Management Strategy

7.1 The Capital Strategy and the Capital Programme is intrinsically linked to the Treasury Management Strategy employed to fund the programme. The capital programme determines the borrowing need of the Council, essentially the longer term cash flow planning, to ensure that the Council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer term cash may involve arranging long or short term loans, or using longer term cash flow surpluses. The Council approves its Treasury Management Strategy, Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Policy in a separate report on this agenda.

7.2 The Council is required to produce a liability benchmark informed by its underlying need to borrow, otherwise known as the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), mapped against its actual levels of debt entered into. The attached is a projection of the benchmark as informed by the current capital programme. It can be seen that the benchmark enters into net repayment mode from 2026/27 as the current programme peaks, but in reality the ongoing capital programme shall be refreshed on an annual basis with new commitments and ongoing financing shall be required.



## 8. Revenue Impact of The Capital Programme

8.1 Unsupported borrowing has a direct impact on the revenue budget, with revenue required to support both interest and principal repayments. The associated capital financing costs of a project are thoroughly considered when

appraising a potential capital investment. The revenue impacts are considered in light of affordability, prudence and sustainability whilst considering the long term impact and benefits of a considered capital programme. The revenue impact of the capital programme are outlined in the Medium Term Financial Plan, which is also presented on this agenda.

- 8.2 The S 151 officer has carefully considered the impact of the many variables and unknowns inherent in the funding of the presented capital programme (e.g. Brexit impact, volatility of markets, timing of City deal funding, variability of direct capital grant funding, impact of MRP review on equalising principal repayments in later years) and has sought to mitigate the impact of the funding of the capital programme on the revenue account with the establishment of the capital equalisation reserve. The utilisation of the reserve recognises the future obligations arising out of the committed capital programme whilst prudently mitigating that impact on the revenue account by adopting professional judgement in reserving appropriately at this time in the capital equalisation reserve.

## **9. Risk Appetite**

- 9.1 Under CIPFA guidance, a local authority is required to outline its risk appetite in respect of its investment activities.

- 9.2 For the purpose of this statement, the Authority has referenced the Orange Book (UK government publication on the strategic management of risk within government) definition of Risk Appetite, namely:

*“the amount of risk that an organisation is prepared to accept, tolerate, or be exposed to at any point in time.”*

It is important to note that risk will always exist in some measure and cannot be removed in its entirety. Additionally, in order to realise investment and commercial gains, one has to take some measure of risk. Therefore, risks need to be considered both in terms of threats to the Council as well as positive opportunities. It is worth noting that the Public Accounts Committee supports well-managed risk taking across government, recognising that innovation and opportunities to improve public services requires risk taking, providing that the ability, skills, knowledge and training to manage those risks well, exist within the organisation or can be brought to bear from outside.

- 9.3 The risk appetite statement sets out how we balance risk and return in pursuit of achieving our objectives. It is intended to aid careful decision-making, such that the Council takes well thought through risks to aid successful delivery of its services and obligations, while also understanding the adverse aspects of risk undertaken and taking appropriate measures to mitigate these in line with its stated goals. Thereby, the Council’s risk judgements are more explicit, transparent and consistent over time.
- 9.4 The risk appetite statement shall form a key element of the Council’s governance and reporting framework. In addition, the risk appetite will be

considered annually and monitored on an ongoing basis by senior management, advisors, Audit Committee and Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.

9.5 It is important to note that the risk appetite is a high level view on the key areas of risk and the qualitative quantum therein that the Council is willing to accept in pursuit of its objectives. In this, it is different to other key aspects of risk management, primarily:

- The risk universe – a detailed list of all the potential risks the Council is exposed to.
- Risk capacity – the maximum level of risk the Council can run given its reserves, revenues, and access to funding, liquidity, regulatory and legal constraints, and any other restrictions.
- Risk tolerance – the maximum amount and type of risk that the Council is willing to tolerate on a prudent assessment.

9.6 The latter two are usually quantified and given as a series of limits and analyses. The risk appetite is also supported by the following:

- The Council's risk management framework
- The governance structure and responsibilities
- Risk reporting
- Monitoring and escalation procedures

It should be noted that aspects of these will be bespoke to individual areas where risk is undertaken, e.g. managing the treasury portfolio, GDPR,

9.7 In general, the Council's risk appetite is expressed through its tolerance to risk in respect of capital preservation, meaningful liquidity and income certainty and volatility. The Council seeks to minimise its exposure to risks that are unwanted and unrewarded. Capital is managed centrally on an ongoing basis to ensure that there is sufficient liquidity in the short and medium term to meet costs and support front line services, as well as meeting long-term solvency and funding requirements. The benefits of this approach were apparent in the ability to fund the building of the 1,000 bed Covid 19 Field Hospital until such time, the Council could be reimbursed by WG.

9.8 The Council is exposed to a broad range of risks:

- **Financial risks** related to the investment of the Council's assets and cash flow, market volatility, currency etc.
- **Macroeconomic risks** related to the growth or decline of the local economy, interest rates, inflation and to a lesser degree, the wider national and global economy amongst others.
- **Credit and counterparty risks** related to investments, loans to institutions and individuals and counterparties in business transactions.
- **Operational risks** related to operational exposures within its organisation, its counterparties, partners and commercial interests



- **Strategic risks** related to key initiatives undertaken by the Council such as significant purchases, new ventures, commercial interests and other areas of organisational change deemed necessary to help the Council meet its goals.
- **Reputational risks** related to the Council's dealings and interests, and the impact of adverse outcomes on the Council's reputation and public perception.
- **Environmental and social risks** related to the environmental and social impact of the Council's strategy and interests.
- **Governance risks** related to ensuring that prudence and careful consideration sit at the heart of the Council's decision-making, augmented by quality independent advice and appropriate checks and balances that manage oversight and efficiency.

9.9 Managing the Council's risks is an area of significant focus for senior management and members, and the Council adopts an integrated view to the management and qualitative assessment of risk. The Council aims to minimise its exposure to unwanted risks – those risks that are not actively sought and which carry no commensurate reward for the Council – through a range of mitigation strategies to the extent that it is cost-effective to do so. Specifically, the Council has no appetite for reputational risk, governance risk and currency risk.

For other risks, the Council's appetite is as follows:

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Appetite</b>
Financial	<p>Moderate appetite for a range of asset classes, property and longer-term investments, subject to careful due diligence and an emphasis on security as well required liquidity profile.</p> <p>Lower appetite for capital growth oriented investments versus income generating investments.</p> <p>No appetite for currency risk, emerging markets and high volatility investments.</p>
Macroeconomic	<p>High appetite for exposure to local economic growth. Moderate appetite for exposure to national and global growth.</p> <p>Low appetite for interest rate risk, and inflation risk.</p>

	No appetite for geopolitical risks and tail risk events.
Credit & Counterparty	<p>High appetite for investment grade or secured credit risk, as well as exposure to highly rated counterparties and financial institutions with strong balance sheets.</p> <p>Lower appetite for unsecured non-investment grade debt. All subject to careful due diligence and an assessment of the transaction capacity, funding needs, broader goals and cashflow requirements.</p>
Operational	<p>Low appetite for BAU (Business as Usual) operational risks such as pricing errors, errors in administration, IT, cybersecurity etc. The Council maintains Risk Registers for key initiatives and significant investments to assess and mitigate specific risks on a more granular level. Business continuity plans have also been established to mitigate external occurrences.</p> <p>No appetite for fraud, regulatory breaches and exceeding risk tolerances.</p>
Strategic	High appetite for strategic initiatives, where there is a direct gain to the Council's revenues or the ability to deliver its statutory duties more effectively and efficiently.
Environmental & Social	<p>No appetite for environmentally negative risks.</p> <p>Very low appetite for social risks, especially in the local region and always subject to full due diligence.</p>

9.10 Risk management is not a stand-alone discipline. In order to maximize risk management benefits and opportunities, it is integrated with existing business processes.

## **10. Skills & Knowledge**

- 10.1 It is important that the Authority has the appropriate staff with the right skills, knowledge and expertise with which to deliver the capital strategy and the programme.
- 10.2 The Director of Place has operational responsibility for the delivery of the capital programme and has management responsibility for :
- Building Services ( including procurement of Education Capital Programme)
  - Property Services
  - Regeneration & Planning Services
  - Highways and Transportation
  - Housing

where the staff are appropriately qualified as engineers, quantity surveyors, town planners, housing professionals, electricians, carpenters, subject matter experts and building professionals. Where required, external professionals are engaged and the appropriate framework/procurement route is adopted.

- 10.3 The financial management and budget monitoring of the capital programme is the responsibility of the S 151 Officer/ Director of Finance who is a CCAB qualified accountant and is supported by professionally CCAB qualified finance staff and technicians in providing the financial oversight and strategic financial advice for business case appraisal and ongoing monitoring of the capital programme.
- 10.4 The Head of Commercial Services is responsible for ensuring appropriate internal and external procurement and commissioning procedures are adhered to, ensuring that best value is achieved.
- 10.5 The Chief Legal Officer is responsible for ensuring legal compliance in the execution of contracts and completion of legal agreements in relation to the capital programme.

## **11. Legal Implications**

- 11.1 The regulations requiring Authorities to have regard to The Prudential Code are issued under part 1 of The Capital Finance Act 2003. The code and subsequent guidance was revised in 2017,2018 and 2021 respectively. The 2017 Code now requires the production of a Capital Strategy.

## **12. Financial Implications**

- 12.1 The financial implications of this strategy are outlined in the Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Plan and Treasury Management Strategy and Investment Strategy also on this agenda.

### **13. Integrated Assessment Implications**

13.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to their own needs.

13.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

13.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

13.4 An integrated impact assessment screening has been undertaken and it concludes that there are no equality impact implications arising from this report. All future programs and schemes covered within this report will be subject to their own Integrated Impact Assessment process.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

# Agenda Item 16.



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance

Council – 2 March 2023

### Annual Review of Performance 2021/22

<b>Purpose:</b>	To present a draft of the Council's Annual Review of Performance 2021/22, which meets the statutory requirements to publish an annual self-assessment report and annual well-being report under Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) 2021 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 respectively.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Corporate Plan 2021/22 <i>Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea.</i>
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) the draft Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 ("the Review") be approved for publication.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Richard Rowlands
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Paul Roach
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Debbie Smith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council is subject to two pieces of legislation that guide how Councils in Wales approach performance in Wales: Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 1.2 Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 sees Councils as "Self-improving organisations through a system based on self-assessment and panel performance assessment"

1.3 The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 introduces 5 new statutory duties on local authorities. The first duty is to:

- keep performance under review; that is, the extent to which the Council is meeting the performance requirements, which are:
  - exercising its functions effectively;
  - using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
  - its governance is effective for securing the above.

1.3.1 The other duties are:

- to report on performance through self-assessment;
- consult on performance;
- arrange a panel performance assessment;
- respond to a panel performance assessment.

## **2. Self-assessment and annual reporting**

2.1 Councils must undertake self-assessment each year on the extent to which they are meeting the performance requirements.

2.2 The self-assessment should be an integrated and continuous process, which is corporate and not service based. It should be honest and open and be owned and led at a strategic level. Scrutiny should be involved in the process and the self-assessment should identify areas for action that can be used to inform improvement.

2.3 The Council must publish the outcome from the self-assessment through an annual self-assessment report. The self-assessment report should address the following questions:

- How well are we doing?
- How do we know?
- What and how can we do better?

2.4 Councils must also publish an annual well-being report under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

2.5 The annual well-being report must set out progress meeting the 'steps' described in the Corporate Plan to achieve our Well-being Objectives established through the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and how, in doing so, it is working sustainably and maximising its contribution to the national goals established by the Act.

2.6 The Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 ("the Review") discharges both of these statutory and annual reporting requirements. A copy of the Review is attached at Appendix B.

### **3. Process for self-assessment**

- 3.1 The Council's approach to undertaking its self-assessment has been based on the principle of utilising and developing existing frameworks. This includes:
- the modification of the Future Generations Commissioner's Self-Reflection tool to support an integrated approach to the gathering of evidence, which was used to determine progress against the Council's well-being objectives;
  - enhancement of the Council's Annual Governance Statement process into a Self-Assessment and Management Assurance process, which was used to help assess both the effectiveness of governance arrangements and the use of resources. This involved each Director completing a Self-Assessment and Management Assurance Statement;
  - a desk-top review of a range of evidence, such as committee and performance reports, to help inform the self-assessment report;
  - a new integrated planning, performance and risk management software solution, which is being developed and is planned to assist in embedding and enabling self-assessment.

### **4. First year of self-assessment**

- 4.1 There were a number of things that went well during the first year of the self-assessment process and some things that will need to be improved in subsequent years.
- 4.1.1 The Self-reflection tools and Self-Assessment and Management Assurance Statements provided a useful framework for a consistent approach to self-assessment and provided core evidence to inform the self-assessment report. After their first use during the self-assessment, they will need to be reviewed to see if their use and application following the first self-assessment can be improved, including the level of challenge.
- 4.1.2 Audit Wales undertook in 2022 a review of the Council's self-assessment arrangements. They identified several positive attributes, which were reported to the Governance & Audit Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022. They also identified the need to try and improve the response rate to the public consultation on the self-assessment, which has been included within the Review as an area for continued improvement.

### **5. Content**

- 5.1 Part 1 of the Review represents a report on the progress the Council has made undertaking the steps it set out in its Corporate Plan 2021/22 to work towards meeting each well-being objective. It provides a self-

assessment on the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively. The Council is exercising its functions effectively when:

- It is meeting the steps set out to achieve its well-being objectives.
- It is maximising its contribution to its well-being objectives and National Goals.
- When it is working sustainably (in line with the 5 ways of working).

#### 5.1.1 For each well-being objective:

- Why this is a well-being objective and what does success look like?
- How well are we doing - and how do we know?
- What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?
- Conclusion – the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively:
  - Progress meeting the steps to deliver the well-being objective.
  - Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.
  - Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this well-being objective.

5.1.2 This first part of the report assesses the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively using a modification of the Future Generations Commissioner’s Self-Reflection Tool to support an integrated approach to the gathering of evidence to determine progress against the Council’s well-being objectives and to fulfil its new self-assessment responsibilities.

5.1.3 An assessment on progress is made against the following criteria:

- **‘Getting started’** means this is a new objective or a change in direction. This could also mean the Council has faced challenges or barriers to progress.
- **‘Making simple changes’** should be quick and easy to implement. They’re often actions that are ‘low hanging fruit’ that have been tested by others and have a low risk of failure.
- **‘Being more adventurous’** involves stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. Signalling early progress to wider change, this might involve a change in strategy or team approach to doing something and could involve more departments and organisations than a ‘simple change’.
- **‘Owning our ambition’** can be a similar stage to ‘being more adventurous’ with initiatives developing and more people becoming involved. The Council will be taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff feel empowered to work across sectors and influence change.



- Those that are **‘Leading the way’** may be the first people or Council to be taking these actions and are a guide for others to follow. This is a systemic, transformational change to how things have always been done and will require reallocating resources, time to put the changes in place and collaboration with other bodies. Actions are innovative, inspirational and collaborative, putting the Act into practice across larger portfolios to achieve the Council’s priorities. This way of working becomes embedded in the Council and good practice is shared with others.

5.1.4 Case-studies are also included in the full Review to better show the impact the steps are having.

5.2 In Parts 2 and 3 of the Review, the Council undertook a self-assessment and assurance of the effectiveness of its use of resources and governance arrangements in place. The assessment looked at what arrangements were in place during 2021/22, how effective they were and the evidence – using the following criteria:

	<b>Evidence &amp; effectiveness of delivery</b>	<b>Extent of evidence &amp; effectiveness</b>
1	Not in place	No evidence of effective delivery.
2	Limited application and effectiveness	Some evidence of application, but the effectiveness of delivery is limited.
3	Mixed Application and effectiveness	Mixed evidence of effective application, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence.
4	Strong Application and effectiveness	Clear evidence of effective application.
5	Embedded	Clear evidence of effective and embedded application

5.3 Part 2 of the Review demonstrates the extent to which the Council is using its resources effectively. The Council has a duty to the public to use its resources wisely. This means making economic, efficient and effective use of the resources at its disposal. In other words, providing value for money to the public; but it also means doing so in a way that is fair and sustainable so that services are available to all without compromising the needs of future generations.

5.3.1 When we talk about the ‘resources’ that are at the Council’s disposal, we are generally referring to the Councils budget, its workforce and its other assets, such as buildings. The Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively when:

- It is minimising the resources used (Economic).
- The intended results correspond to the actual results (Effective).
- There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).

- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).

5.3.2 These resources are used through the following areas:

- Financial Planning.
- Workforce Planning.
- Procurement.
- Performance Management (and benchmarking).
- Asset management.

5.3.3 This part of the Annual Review of Performance is an assessment on the extent to which the Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively. It does so by critically reviewing and evaluating how these resources were used through financial and workforce planning, procurement, performance management and asset management. Part 1 of this assessment, which looks at how effectively the Council is delivering its functions, is also a measure of the effective use of resources, i.e. the extent to which the intended results correspond to the actual results and should also be read as such.

5.4 The third part of the Review is an assessment of the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements to secure the above. The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 to undertake a review of its governance arrangements, at least annually. The review is intended to show how the Council has complied with its Code of Corporate Governance.

5.4.1 The review of governance is brought together in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is to accompany the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS is a key document informed by a number of both internal and external assurance sources.

5.4.2 This part of the Annual Review of Performance is not meant to replicate the AGS but should be read in conjunction with it. This part of the Review is intended to assess and evidence the effectiveness of the Council's governance arrangements in helping to deliver its functions and provide value for money.

5.4.3 The Council has effective governance when it effectively applies the core principles of good governance are set out by CIPFA / SOLACE in *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*:

- A – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- B – Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C - There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).

- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).
- D – Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- E - Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F – Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G – Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

5.4.4 These core principles are applied in the Council through the following governance arrangements:

- Vision, strategy and performance.
- Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values.
- Organisational leadership.
- Customer & Community Engagement and Involvement.
- Risk Management and Business Continuity.
- Partnership / collaboration governance.
- Internal Control Environment.
- Fraud & Financial Impropriety.
- Programme and Project Assurance.
- Innovation & Change Management.

5.5 Each part of the Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 ends with an assessment made against the criteria and identifies areas for continued improvement.

## **6. Publication and accessibility**

6.1 The Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 as required by the statutory guidance is a wide-ranging assessment that covers a large number of topics, contains substantial amounts of information and refers to significant quantities of evidence.

6.2 An Executive Summary has been produced (attached at Appendix A) to précis the overall findings of the assessment so that they are accessible for the casual and general reader.

6.3 In addition, consideration will be given going forward to the possibility of producing an easy read version or alternative.

## **7. Scrutiny and Governance & Audit Committee**

7.1 The Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel and the Governance & Audit Committee met to discuss the Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 respectively. The Governance & Audit Committee proposed the

following, which have been implemented or, where relevant, will be implemented in the 2022/23 Review:

- Consider the methods and methodologies for 2022/23 in parts 1, 2 and 3. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.
- Linking the performance and risk assessments for 2022/23. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.
- Recognizing improvements that would need to be articulated within the report around stronger analysis. This has been acknowledged within the Review and will be addressed as an ongoing area for improvement starting in 2022/23.
- Correlation between parts 1, 2 and 3, ensuring they are all in harmony prior to the report being presented to Council and if they are not in harmony, outlining the reasons why. The different parts of the assessment are congruent and there is some cross-over between them, although with differing emphasis.
- Ensuring the report is proof read prior to being presented to Council. This has been completed.
- Improving the links between consultation engagement / stakeholder reference. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.

## **8. Integrated Assessment Implications**

8.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

8.1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

8.1.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

8.1.3 This report meets our duty to report on progress in 2021/22 meeting the 'steps' described in the Corporate Plan to deliver our well-being objectives and on the extent to which a local authority is: exercising its functions effectively; using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively, and; is governing itself effectively in securing the above – as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act 2021 respectively; so there is no direct impact on people or communities.

## **9. Financial Implications**

9.1 The financial resources required to implement all the actions and achieve the specified performance targets in 2021/22 were provided in the approved budget. Any additional financial implications that arose from the pursuance of the priorities in the Corporate Plan would have been dealt with as virement within the normal financial procedures.

## **10. Legal Implications**

10.1 None.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A	Executive Summary Annual Review of Performance 2021/22
Appendix B	Annual Review of Performance 2021/22
Appendix C	IIA

# Annual Review of Performance

Executive Summary

2021/22



## **Introduction - The Annual Review of Performance 2021/22**

The Council's Corporate Plan 2021/22 *Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea* describes our 6 key priorities (Well-being Objectives) and our organisation values and principles that will underpin the delivery of our priorities and overall strategy; this discharges our duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the 'Act') to set Well-being Objectives.

Our Well-being Objectives show the Council's contribution to Wales' 7 national goals<sup>1</sup> described within the Act and describes how we will maximise this contribution to the national goals and to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Swansea by working in line with the sustainability principles set out within the Act.

The Corporate Plan sets out the steps being undertaken to meet our Well-being Objectives and contribute to the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Act.

The Plan also sets out how we are maximising our contribution to our well-being objectives and national goals through the way in which we work, which is in line with sustainable principles as follows:

- Looking ahead to the medium and long-term challenges.
- Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse.
- Ensuring our objectives do not contradict each other and compliment those of other public bodies.
- Working in partnership with others.
- Involving local people.

### **Our ambitions and commitments to residents – our Well-being Objectives 2021/22**

In order to meet these challenges, we prioritised six Well-being Objectives in 2021/22. These were:

- ***Safeguarding people from harm*** – so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- ***Improving Education & Skills*** – so that every child and young person in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- ***Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure*** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- ***Tackling Poverty*** – so that every person in Swansea can achieve his or her potential.
- ***Transformation & Future Council development*** – so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.
- ***Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity*** - so that we maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our

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<sup>1</sup> The National Goals are: A Prosperous Wales; A Resilient Wales; A Healthier Wales; A More Equal Wales; A Wales of More Cohesive Communities; A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language; A Globally Responsible Wales.

knowledge and understanding of our natural environment and benefit health and well-being.

This Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 (the 'Review') is the Council's Annual Well-being Report required under the Act on its progress undertaking the steps to meet its Well-being Objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan to maximise its contribution to the national goals by applying the sustainable development principle. This report also discharges our duty under Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) Act to publish an annual Self-assessment Report 2021. In doing so, the Review seeks to describe the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively, using its resources well and governing itself properly by working in line with the requirements set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

### **Section 6 Biodiversity Duty**

The information detailed under the *Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity* Objective in this report will be used as the basis for the Council's Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report to Welsh Government.

### **How can you get involved?**

You can get involved and have your say. <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/haveyoursay>. You can also get involved through the Council's Scrutiny Boards and panels, which are open to the public: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/scrutiny>. You can contact the Council at any time by: Email to [improvement@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:improvement@swansea.gov.uk) Telephone 01792 637570.



## Executive Summary

### Part 1 – How the Council is exercising its functions

This part of the Review represents a report on the progress the Council has made undertaking the steps it set out in its Corporate Plan 2021/22 to work towards meeting each Well-being Objective. It provides a self-assessment on the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively. The Council is exercising its functions effectively when:

- It is meeting the steps set out to achieve its Well-being Objectives.
- It is maximising its contribution to its Well-being Objectives and National Goals.
- When it is working sustainably (in line with the 5 ways of working).

For each Well-being Objective:

- Why this is a Well-being Objective and what does success look like?
- How well are we doing - and how do we know?
- What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?
- Conclusion – the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively:
  - Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective.
  - Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.
  - Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective.

This first part of the report assesses the extent to which the council is exercising its functions effectively using a modification of the Future Generations Commissioner's Self-Reflection Tool to support an integrated approach to the gathering of evidence to determine progress against the Council's well-being objectives and to fulfil its new self-assessment responsibilities.

An assessment on progress is made against the following criteria:

- **'Getting started'** means this is a new objective or a change in direction. This could also mean the Council has faced challenges or barriers to progress.
- **'Making simple changes'** should be quick and easy to implement. They're often actions that are 'low hanging fruit' that have been tested by others and have a low risk of failure.
- **'Being more adventurous'** involves stepping out of a 'business as usual' mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. Signalling early progress to wider change, this might involve a change in strategy or team approach to doing something and could involve more departments and organisations than a 'simple change'.
- **'Owning our ambition'** can be a similar stage to 'being more adventurous' with initiatives developing and more people becoming involved. The Council will be taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and

collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff feel empowered to work across sectors and influence change.

- Those that are **‘Leading the way’** may be the first people or Council to be taking these actions and are a guide for others to follow. This is a systemic, transformational change to how things have always been done and will require reallocating resources, time to put the changes in place and collaboration with other bodies. Actions are innovative, inspirational and collaborative, putting the Act into practice across larger portfolios to achieve the Council’s priorities. This way of working becomes embedded in the Council and good practice is shared with others.

Case-studies are also included in the full Review to better show the impact the steps are having.

### **Impact from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges and changes to the Council, its services and workforce. The Council has never undertaken such change in such a short timescale and in such challenging circumstances. A number of non-essential services were suspended or reduced during 2020/21 and 2021/22 in order to redeploy resources to areas where they were most needed.

This inevitably has had a significant impact on the usual areas of performance across the council and that is why targets for performance indicators were not set for 2020/21 or 2021/22. This should also be considered when comparing performance to previous years.

### **Summary of Part 1 - How the Council is exercising its functions**

The Council is effectively delivering its functions. The evidence in Part 1 of the assessment shows that the extent to which it is delivering its functions is that it is **owning its ambition** in the delivery of its well-being objectives, which are the councils key priorities for delivery. This means that the Council is stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

A summary of the evidence shows the following areas for continued improvement.

Well-being Objective	Areas for continued improvement
<b>Safeguarding People from Harm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the lessons of these new ways of working to inform future delivery models that ensure that we are the best that we can be in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain our focus on prevention / early help across the whole system, and at the same time safeguarding and meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.</li> <li>• Develop new, imaginative approaches in attracting new qualified and unqualified workers to want to work in the health and social care sector, and in retaining their loyalty and commitment.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improving Education &amp; Skills</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further analyse with schools the impact on learner outcomes because of the pandemic, including basic skills in the early years and pre-school, Welsh language skills, mental health and wellbeing, curriculum design, teaching and learning, and assessment.</li> <li>• Develop a strategy to promote the inclusion to support vulnerable groups of learners and to ensure that the Local Authority has oversight of individualised tracking on learner progress.</li> <li>• Develop an Inclusion for Learners Strategy, focus on the few elements of the ALN strategy where further progress is required and finalise the revision of the accessibility strategy and plan.</li> <li>• Develop further sufficient specialist places for learners with ALN, including STFs and special schools, and support schools to build capacity to meet the needs of learners with SEBD to prevent exclusion or referral to EOTAS and embed universal strategies for all areas of ALN.</li> <li>• Develop a coherent strategy to support literacy and numeracy outcomes in schools and further assess the impact of increased Welsh-medium provision and falling birth rates within the English medium sector.</li> <li>• Evaluate provision within schools that have smaller numbers.</li> <li>• In terms of provision (services), continue and enhance the effectiveness of Member/Officer engagement to inform next stage development of longer-term capital investment and school organisation proposals.</li> </ul> <p>Areas for improvement in relation to leadership include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the Abertawe 2027 strategic plan to succeed Abertawe 2023 for education improvement in Swansea.</li> <li>• Sustain the quality of leadership across the education system (school leaders, governors, members, and officers) and embed a consistent and high quality new regional improvement partnership.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish more effective collaboration with the Local Health Board to ensure the statutory requirement of ALNET are met to ensure vulnerable leaders achieve good outcomes.</li> </ul>
<b>Transforming our economy and infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Economic Delivery Plan - Lead implementation of South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan in Swansea and associated work packages and funding streams such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Welsh Government sources.</li> <li>• Diverse and sustainable local economy - Promote and enhance a diverse and sustainable local economy through strong local networks such as the Regeneration Swansea Partnership, development partner Urban Splash and leisure delivery partners Freedom Leisure and Parkwood, to progress Swansea's economic regeneration and cultural agendas including delivery of the Welsh Government Transforming Towns programme, Creative Wales, and through the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) that supports the regeneration of Swansea and promotes sustainable communities underpinned by sustainable transport connectivity.</li> <li>• Community Benefit clauses - Create employment &amp; training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in contracts.</li> <li>• Business support - Leverage of support, advice and funding for new start-up businesses and our existing business stock through Business Swansea and working with Welsh Government to continue to innovate support programmes such as commercial meanwhile uses, and other support interventions in City Centre and District and Local Centres.</li> <li>• Creative Network - Continue to work through strong and resilient Creative Network to support both existing, under development and future fabric of cultural and leisure assets embedded across the City Centre and District and local centres.</li> <li>• Housing - Progress strategic housing and mixed development sites to meet housing need and provide employment.</li> <li>• Public protection - Protect and promote the health, wellbeing, safety and consumer interests of people living in or visiting Swansea by working with others to maintain public safety across the range of regulatory services such as pollution, scams and unfair trading, public health and housing issues, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Tackling Poverty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarify aims and objectives in relation to tackling poverty and improve the ways in which it monitored and measured the outcomes of work.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the reliance on grant funding to tackle poverty and look for greater flexibility in relation to using funding in a way which best meets local needs in a sustainable way.</li> <li>• Complete the revision of the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy.</li> <li>• Complete and implement the Review of Employability and the Review of Financial Inclusion.</li> <li>• Develop and implement the Corporate Volunteering Policy.</li> <li>• Review food poverty and community cooking and growing activities, employment support and access to Lifelong learning, developing evidence based outcome models for projects and developing a quality / satisfaction framework for services.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan, the Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms up to 2027. We will report to WG every 3 years in line with our Biodiversity Duty.</li> <li>• Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and monitor the delivery of respective Action Plans up to 2027</li> <li>• Continue to monitor air, water and soil quality.</li> <li>• Monitor the delivery the Energy Action plan targets proposed to 2027.</li> <li>• Set out new measures for monitoring the impact of our Procurement of goods and services in line with eth emerging WG carbon measurement toolkit.</li> <li>• Embed and deliver a Sustainable Transport strategy to 2027.</li> <li>• Continue to report the number of new homes constructed to net carbon zero standards and set out new measures of recording the decarbonisation of our existing stock in line with emerging WG guidance.</li> <li>• Report on the delivery of a Waste Reduction strategy.</li> <li>• Secure grants and other external funding to help deliver the above.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Transformation &amp; Future Council development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Part 2 – Areas for Continued Improvement</li> </ul>

### Summary of Part 2 – How the Council uses its Resources

The Council has a duty to the public to use its resources wisely. This means making economic, efficient and effective use of the resources at its disposal. In other words, providing value for money to the public; but it also means doing so in a way that is fair and sustainable so that services are available to all without compromising the needs of future generations.

When we talk about the ‘resources’ that are at the Council’s disposal, we are generally referring to the Councils budget, its workforce and its other assets, such as buildings. The Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively when:

- It is minimising the resources used (Economic).
- The intended results correspond to the actual results (Effective).
- There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).

These resources are used through the following areas:

- Financial Planning.
- Workforce Planning.
- Procurement.
- Performance Management (and benchmarking).
- Asset management.

This part of the Annual Review of Performance is an assessment on the extent to which the Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively. It will do so by critically reviewing and evaluating how these resources were used through financial and workforce planning, procurement, performance management and asset management. Part 1 of this assessment, which looks at how effectively the Council is delivering its functions, is also a measure of the effective use of resources, i.e. the extent to which the intended results correspond to the actual results and should also be read as such.

### **How well and we doing and how do we know?**

The Council undertook a self-assessment and assurance of the effectiveness of its use of resources and governance arrangements in place. The assessment looked at what arrangements were in place during 2021/22, how effective they were and the evidence.

	<b>Evidence &amp; effectiveness of delivery</b>	<b>Extent of evidence &amp; effectiveness</b>
1	Not in place	No evidence of effective delivery.
2	Limited application and effectiveness	Some evidence of application, but the effectiveness of delivery is limited.
3	Mixed Application and effectiveness	Mixed evidence of effective application, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence.
4	Strong Application and effectiveness	Clear evidence of effective application.
5	Embedded	Clear evidence of effective and embedded application

The Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively when:

- It is minimising the resources used (Economic).
- The intended results correspond to the actual results (Effective).
- There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).

The evidence in Part 2 of this assessment shows that: there is a **strong application and effective use of resources** around financial management, procurement and asset management.

Use of Resources	Areas for continued improvement
<b>Financial Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to contain, reduce, defer and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard to the existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service overspending and take corrective action.</li> <li>• Re-establish tracking (suspended as a result of Covid) to ensure that savings targets are monitored and reviewed at the Reshaping and Budget Setting Board established as part of the Council's Achieving Better Together transformation strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Procurement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Inquiry into procurement - including a focus on enhanced social value considerations in procurement in line with new legislation that the UK and Welsh Governments are developing (once that legislation is published and its impact becomes known), to include considerations of sustainable development, development of the local supplier base and co-production activity, i.e. involving citizens in decision-making, and also a focus on any areas of non-compliance in procurement activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Asset Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the Asset Management Plan 2021/25 and monitor and report on progress.</li> </ul>

There is a **mixed evidence of effective application**, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence regarding workforce planning and performance management.

A summary of the evidence shows the following areas for continued improvement.

Use of Resources	Areas for continued improvement
<b>Workforce Planning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to the key messages from engagement exercises and finalise the Workforce Strategy.</li> <li>• Seek to improve the number of responses to the staff survey.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce staff sickness.</li> </ul>
<b>Performance Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the current suite of corporate performance indicators for continued relevance for 2022/23 reporting and set annual targets for end-of-year reporting.</li> <li>• Develop a Corporate Plan and associated performance indicators for 2023/27.</li> <li>• Look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process and improve the response rate for the annual self-assessment.</li> <li>• Review and work to improve the amount of review, scrutiny and challenge to the self-assessment process.</li> <li>• Implement remaining Governance &amp; Audit Committee recommendations for improvement to the Annual Review of Performance.</li> </ul>

### Summary of Part 3 – the effectiveness of the Councils Governance arrangements

The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 to undertake a review of its governance arrangements, at least annually. The review is intended to show how the Council has complied with its Code of Corporate Governance.

The review of governance is brought together in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is to accompany the Council’s Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS is a key document informed by a number of both internal and external assurance sources.

This part of the Annual Review of Performance is not meant to replicate the AGS but should be read in conjunction with it. This part of the review is intended to assess and evidence the effectiveness of the Councils governance arrangements in helping to deliver its functions and provide value for money.

The Council has effective governance when it effectively applying the core principles of good governance set out by CIPFA / SOLACE in *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*:

- A – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- B – Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C - There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).
- D – Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- E - Developing the entity’s capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.



- F – Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G – Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

These core principles are applied in the Council through the following governance arrangements:

- Vision, strategy and performance.
- Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values.
- Organisational leadership.
- Customer & Community Engagement and Involvement.
- Risk Management and Business Continuity.
- Partnership / collaboration governance.
- Internal Control Environment.
- Fraud & Financial Impropriety.
- Programme and Project Assurance.
- Innovation & Change Management.

#### How well and we doing and how do we know?

The Council undertook a self-assessment and assurance of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements. The assessment looked at what arrangements were in place during 2021/22, how effective they were and the evidence.

	<b>Evidence &amp; effectiveness of delivery</b>	<b>Extent of evidence &amp; effectiveness</b>
1	Not in place	No evidence of effective delivery.
2	Limited application and effectiveness	Some evidence of application, but the effectiveness of delivery is limited.
3	Mixed Application and effectiveness	Mixed evidence of effective application, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence.
4	Strong Application and effectiveness	Clear evidence of effective application.
5	Embedded	Clear evidence of effective and embedded application

The evidence in Part 3 of this assessment shows that: there is a **mixed application and effectiveness of governance** around vision, strategy & performance.

A summary of the evidence shows the following areas for continued improvement.

Use of Resources	Areas for continued improvement
<b>Vision, Strategy &amp; Performance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See Part 2 - including financial management, performance management and workforce planning.</li> </ul>

There is a **strong application and effectiveness of governance** in all of the other areas.

A summary of the evidence shows the following areas for continued improvement.

Use of Resources	Areas for continued improvement
<b>Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put arrangements in place to ensure that Audit Wales recommendations are recorded and tracked in a consistent way.</li> </ul>
<b>Organisational leadership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Part 2 – workforce planning.</li> </ul>
<b>Customer &amp; Community Engagement and Involvement.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Part 2 – performance management.</li> <li>Continue the development of a Public Participation Strategy, as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Risk Management and Business Continuity.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement recommendations from 2021/22 Internal Audit Report on risk management to continue regular updates and ensure control measures remain SMART.</li> </ul>
<b>Partnership / collaboration governance.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work to address all proposals for improvement to the operation of the Public Service Board made by the Scrutiny Programme Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Control Environment.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Fraud &amp; Financial Impropriety.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue work to address all recommendations in the Audit Wales report 'Raising our Game - Tackling Fraud in Wales'.</li> </ul>
<b>Programme and Project Assurance.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation &amp; Change Management.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None identified.</li> </ul>

# Annual Review of Performance

2021/22



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## Introduction - The Annual Review of Performance 2021/22

The Council's Corporate Plan 2021/22 *Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea* describes our 6 key priorities (Well-being Objectives) and our organisation values and principles that will underpin the delivery of our priorities and overall strategy; this discharges our duties under the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the 'Act') to set Well-being Objectives.

Our Well-being Objectives show the Council's contribution to Wales' 7 national goals<sup>1</sup> described within the Act and describes how we will maximise this contribution to the national goals and to the social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being of Swansea by working in line with the sustainability principles set out within the Act.

The Corporate Plan sets out the steps being undertaken to meet our Well-being Objectives and contribute to the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Act.

The Plan also sets out how we are maximising our contribution to our well-being objectives and national goals through the way in which we work, which is in line with sustainable principles as follows:

- Looking ahead to the medium and long-term challenges.
- Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse.
- Ensuring our objectives do not contradict each other and compliment those of other public bodies.
- Working in partnership with others.
- Involving local people.

### Our ambitions and commitments to residents – our Well-being Objectives 2021/22

In order to meet these challenges, we prioritised six Well-being Objectives in 2021/22. These were:

- ***Safeguarding people from harm*** – so that our citizens are free from harm and exploitation.
- ***Improving Education & Skills*** – so that every child and young person in Swansea gains the skills and qualifications they need to succeed in life.
- ***Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure*** – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- ***Tackling Poverty*** – so that every person in Swansea can achieve his or her potential.
- ***Transformation & Future Council development*** – so that we and the services that we provide are sustainable and fit for the future.
- ***Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity*** - so that we maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our knowledge and understanding of our natural environment and benefit health and well-being.

This Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 (the 'Review') is the Council's Annual Well-being Report required under the Act on its progress undertaking the steps to meet its Well-being Objectives as outlined in the Corporate Plan to maximise its contribution to the national goals by applying the sustainable development principle. This report also discharges our duty under Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act (Wales) Act to publish an annual Self-assessment Report 2021. In doing so, the Review seeks to describe the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively,

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<sup>1</sup> The National Goals are: A Prosperous Wales; A Resilient Wales; A Healthier Wales; A More Equal Wales; A Wales of More Cohesive Communities; A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language; A Globally Responsible Wales.

using its resources well and governing itself properly by working in line with the requirements set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

## Section 6 Biodiversity Duty

The information detailed under the *Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's Natural Resources and Biodiversity* Objective in this report will be used as the basis for the Council's Section 6 Biodiversity Duty Report to Welsh Government.

### How can you get involved?

You can get involved and have your say. <http://www.swansea.gov.uk/haveyoursay>. You can also get involved through the Council's Scrutiny Boards and panels, which are open to the public: <https://www.swansea.gov.uk/scrutiny>. You can contact the Council at any time by: Email to [improvement@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:improvement@swansea.gov.uk) Telephone 01792 637570.

## Part 1 – How the Council is exercising its functions

This part of the Review represents a report on the progress the Council has made undertaking the steps it set out in its Corporate Plan 2021/22 to work towards meeting each Well-being Objective. It provides a self-assessment on the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively. The Council is exercising its functions effectively when:

- It is meeting the steps set out to achieve its Well-being Objectives.
- It is maximising its contribution to its Well-being Objectives and National Goals.
- When it is working sustainably (in line with the 5 ways of working).

For each Well-being Objective:

- Why this is a Well-being Objective and what does success look like?
- How well are we doing - and how do we know?
- What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?
- Conclusion – the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively:
  - Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective.
  - Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.
  - Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective.

This first part of the report assesses the extent to which the council is exercising its functions effectively using a modification of the Future Generations Commissioner's Self-Reflection Tool to support an integrated approach to the gathering of evidence to determine progress against the Council's well-being objectives and to fulfil its new self-assessment responsibilities.

An assessment on progress is made against the following criteria:

- **'Getting started'** means this is a new objective or a change in direction. This could also mean the Council has faced challenges or barriers to progress.
- **'Making simple changes'** should be quick and easy to implement. They're often actions that are 'low hanging fruit' that have been tested by others and have a low risk of failure.

- **‘Being more adventurous’** involves stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. Signalling early progress to wider change, this might involve a change in strategy or team approach to doing something and could involve more departments and organisations than a ‘simple change’.
- **‘Owning our ambition’** can be a similar stage to ‘being more adventurous’ with initiatives developing and more people becoming involved. The Council will be taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff feel empowered to work across sectors and influence change.
- Those that are **‘Leading the way’** may be the first people or Council to be taking these actions and are a guide for others to follow. This is a systemic, transformational change to how things have always been done and will require reallocating resources, time to put the changes in place and collaboration with other bodies. Actions are innovative, inspirational and collaborative, putting the Act into practice across larger portfolios to achieve the Council’s priorities. This way of working becomes embedded in the Council and good practice is shared with others.

Case-studies are also included to better show the impact the steps are having.

### **Impact from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has brought huge challenges and changes to the Council, its services and workforce. The Council has never undertaken such change in such a short timescale and in such challenging circumstances. A number of non-essential services were suspended or reduced during 2020/21 and 2021/22 in order to redeploy resources to areas where they were most needed.

This inevitably has had a significant impact on the usual areas of performance across the council and that is why targets for performance indicators were not set for 2020/21 or 2021/22. This should also be considered when comparing performance to previous years.

In summary, since March 2020 the Council has transformed the way it works to manage the impact of the pandemic. Thousands of staff were successfully mobilised to work remotely and/or from home within a matter of weeks. This took a massive effort from our ICT team to provide the necessary changes enabling staff and councillors to have full network links at their preferred location.

Other changes include:

- Supporting the Welsh Government’s Shielding Programme by setting a new call centre and providing daily support to thousands of vulnerable people.
- Focusing social services care on the most vulnerable, re-opening a care home and supporting the private care sector.
- Overseeing the planning and construction of the Bay Field Hospital on Fabian Way.
- Remodelling schools into care settings for key workers’ children.
- Providing meals to care settings and delivering free school meals.
- Providing food banks across the city and county.
- Providing financial support in excess of £100 million to thousands of businesses.
- Setting up a Track, Trace and Protect function and providing community testing centres.
- Preparing for mass vaccination in our communities.

Performance for 2021/22 should therefore be considered within this wider context and achievements noted.



## Safeguarding people from harm

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what success will look like

- We are committed to ensuring that citizens live their lives free from harm and exploitation.
- Safeguarding vulnerable people needs to be seen as everybody's business within every service within the Council, by all elected Members and by those who do work on behalf of the Council.
- We want children to be safe from harm and to stay with their families or be supported in family settings where it is safe for them to do so.
- We want to ensure all vulnerable adults are safeguarded from harm and able to live to their maximum potential.
- We want to tackle domestic abuse and ensure that victims are fully supported.
- We want people to age well and be able to live as independently and as safely as possible in their own homes.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Safeguard the most vulnerable people and prioritise services and contact with them during the Covid-19 response and recovery.**

This past year has again been dominated by the impact of COVID-19 on our population with care and support needs, our workforce and health and care services. Delivery of our key strategies to support children, families and adults with care and support needs to remain safe and well at home have been severely challenged. In children services the Wales wide deficit in social worker capacity has significantly impacted as has the Wales wide issue around sufficiency of looked after children placements. In adult services the backlogs caused by individuals being unable to access health and care services have compounded the complexity of individuals presenting needs. This has in turn exacerbated the difficulties in meeting that increased need caused by the shortfall in workforce capacity across all adult health and care services.

Workforce shortages are particularly acute in domiciliary care services further undermining delivery against our strategic ambition to support more individuals in their own homes rather than in more institutionalised settings. There has been a further complicating factor with reporting and monitoring performance during this crucial period caused by the lack of stability of the Welsh National Community Care Information System, which went live in Swansea during this reporting year. The system is now stable but some end of year reporting to Welsh Government on some indicators will not be possible due to the significant in year impact.

Quite understandably, the challenges highlighted above had a significant impact on performance particularly where our focus has necessarily shifted to managing the emergency and ensuring that health and care systems did not collapse. In that context, overall performance has held up astonishingly well and is a credit to the council's workforce.

All those working in health and social care and with and in our communities whether employed by the Council, in the independent and third sectors, our statutory partners, all the unpaid carers, volunteers and other members of the community have shown remarkable resilience, innovation, commitment and humanity to support our most vulnerable citizens during the past two years. We are now learning from these different ways of working to inform future delivery models that ensure that we are the best that we can be in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens. The

Council's post pandemic recovery programme – "Achieving Better Together" is heavily informed by the Adult Services transformation, and Child and Family Services Improvement programmes.

**Continue to ensure that effective safeguarding arrangements are in place to protect those at risk from significant harm and exploitation.**

Swansea Council expects that vulnerable people in Swansea are kept safe and protected from harm, abuse and neglect. Safeguarding vulnerable adults and children is both a corporate priority, and well-being is a strategic outcome within the Corporate Plan (2021-22). By implementing a corporate wide approach to safeguarding vulnerable people the Council has to ensure there are clear lines of responsibility and accountability in all service areas of the Council, and that we are involving representatives of partner organisations in this work.

In children services the twin focus of delivering more early help whilst maintaining robust proactive safeguarding practice has meant that more children have been supported to remain safely living at home and our looked after children numbers have continued to reduce. There is a particular challenge around older adolescents with complex and challenging behaviour requiring specialist residential provision, which we have been unable to provide or commission. Our strategy to expand in house local and specialist regional provision will address this in the medium term but in the meantime we have seen an increase in young people being placed in England or in unregulated placements. The numbers are not high but nevertheless it is an indicator of concern that we will need to monitor closely into next year.

In adult services a strengthened prevention offer both through local area coordination and work with third sector colleagues has meant individuals and their carers unable to access formal care and support have had a level of mitigating support. This has helped bear down on levels of demand that exceed current capacity but there were still end the year with significant backlogs in assessments, reviews and access to domiciliary care.

Day services and other day opportunity provision have continued to expand throughout the year and the Council maintained extra capacity in its in-house residential provision to provide emergency and extended respite/ short term placements. We have also expanded access to direct payments both for individuals with care and support needs and carers in their own right.

**Continue to ensure that safeguarding is 'everyone's business' across the Council, within schools, with partners, and through West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board, to ensure we collaborate and intervene on wider, emerging issues, such as County Lines, Modern Slavery, Human Trafficking, Bullying in Schools, Hate Crimes, and the PREVENT strategy.**

Swansea Council's corporate safeguarding policy has a strong focus on early intervention and prevention and places a duty to report on all public service officers. Our updated policy now covers a broader range of potential abuses, and contextual safeguarding which may be a threat to vulnerable people, such as child sexual exploitation, modern slavery, radicalisation, etc. Safeguarding is now widely understood as "everyone's business", by Council leaders, elected members, our workforce, partner organisations and any individuals who are carrying out work with or on behalf of the Council.

**Case study 1: City in 'strong position' to continue support for young people**

Swansea is in a strong position to continue to improve children's lives by preventing harm and exploitation, not just in their homes but in other places where they spend time, according to experts.

The council is pioneering a new approach for Wales called Contextual Safeguarding so that children and young people get the right help they need from the right people, in the right place, and at the right time for them.

As well as increasing its youth work with five additional staff and increasing youth club provision, the council has worked with others - for example police and businesses - to reach into areas such as parks, the promenade, beach, and other community spaces where young people tend to gather and to make these places safer.

There are also now processes and practices in place to listen to young people, residents, and people in the community when there is a concern about the safety of young people and work together to make it safer place and space for all.

These concerns help inform part of the work of a multi-agency panel established last year which has actively considered 50 referrals and taken a range of actions from street lighting and help signage to outreach youth work, training in schools, and supporting community groups and businesses to help keep places safe.

This new Contextual Safeguarding approach is led by Swansea Council's Child and Family Services in partnership with more than 25 agencies from police and health to the third sector and local business.

It's the result of work that started two years ago when Swansea became one of just five test sites across England and Wales to successfully bid for Durham University and the University of Bedfordshire to work with them to develop a Contextual Safeguarding approach.

It offers new approaches and learning about safeguarding young people who come to harm and are at risk of exploitation beyond their family home.

Researchers say this has placed Swansea in a strong position to continue to improve the way it looks out for all its young people in the years ahead.

The programme also seen the council develop its single point of contact for Child and Family Services so that it now has a wide range of expertise and services to help families.

It provides information, advice and assistance and has staff with expertise in domestic abuse, safeguarding, intensive family support and specialist child sexual abuse and criminal exploitation services. Its Practice Lead for Safeguarding Children at Risk of Exploitation is also based there.

Dr Rachael Owens, Social Work Practice Advisor at Durham University, said at the heart of this Contextual Safeguarding approach is the importance of listening to young people, residents, and people in communities when there is a concern about the safety of young people.

"There are new partnerships with agencies who reach into, and have responsibility for, contexts and places where young people spend their time. Alongside these new partnerships, there are now processes to co-ordinate welfare-oriented responses to a child's situation. The idea is to target the social conditions of harm so that social care partners with the most appropriate agency or agencies can make the changes needed to keep the child safe.

"In terms of practice changes, Swansea Children's Services has increased its detached youth work provision. It means that alongside changing the environments, there is a commitment to building

trusting relationships which increases the guardianship of young people in outdoor spaces, addresses their needs and supports them to learn from each other.

"This has all been possible because the team leading the Contextual Safeguarding at Swansea have engaged wholeheartedly with the process.

"They have executed a vision for making radical changes to the structure and offer of services, in order to increase safety for young people and are now in a strong positive to embed this into their 'practice as usual.'

"We look forward seeing how this learning develops and can support approaches to safeguarding young people outside the home across Wales."

Swansea Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services in 2021/22, Elliott King, said: "I'm pleased that the council's determination and commitment to ensure all our young people are as safe as they can be, has been recognised.

"There has been a lot of work in recent years changing and improving the way we and our partners work and this would not have been possible with the commitment and professionalism of our staff and partners.

"We will always look to improve on what we do but I would like to recognise and thank all involved for the progress to date."

**Continue to ensure that Adult and Child & Family Services are robust and effective in meeting the statutory requirements laid on the Authority as set out in the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 to improve well-being outcomes for vulnerable adults in Swansea.**

How our social service has adapted to the pandemic demonstrates the resilience of staff, their continued hard work and professionalism. These are challenging times in for children, young people, vulnerable adults, carers and families, and the Council is responding magnificently to the new and existing challenges, by continuing to deliver core services effectively and with innovation. The Director of Social Services' Annual Report gives a comprehensive account of current performance and how improved outcomes are being achieved.

**Continue to ensure that Adult and Child & Family Services are robust and effective in meeting the statutory requirements laid on the Authority as set out in the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014 to improve well-being outcomes for vulnerable adults in Swansea.**

Child & Family Services are responsible for the provision of services to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people. Our vision is "Doing what matters to make things better for children, young people and families". We have been concerned about the impact of school closures during the pandemic, as this means there are fewer opportunities to consider the welfare of each child, and to intervene where there is a possibility of a child experiencing harm. We remain focused on safeguarding children and improving outcomes for the high numbers of looked after children and young people, and with a high level of success, we are finding safe placements in supportive families and more locally. Swansea has a well-established Signs of Safety/Wellbeing practice model, to shape how we work in partnership and collaboration, to understand what matters most to children and families, together exploring strengths and managing risks to ensure there is safety, care and support in the child and family's situation.

**Continue to target a Safe Looked After Children (LAC) strategy by implementing Child and Family service improvements, and through the Corporate Parenting Strategy to improve outcomes for looked after children and care leavers.**

Our Safe LAC reduction strategy has now changed – to become a ‘Supporting children and young people to be safe with family’ strategy. Swansea's Corporate Parenting Board champion the rights of looked after children, and the Board have been working co-productively with our care experienced population on “what a best life” can look like in Swansea. We believe all children should live in safe stable homes where they can achieve good outcomes and grow into adults who can lead successful lives. Looked after children are those children and young people aged between 0 to 18 years who cannot safely remain with their family and are cared for by the local authority. For these young people, we are developing a whole service approach to getting children back with their families, wherever possible, or otherwise achieving genuine permanence and security until they reach adulthood. By working with children, young people, and families to help them identify their needs the right support for them at the right time.

**Through a Getting It Right for Every Child programme, we will implement a new whole system, integrated approach to focus early help and prevention services to improve well-being for children and young people, and support to families.**

We are working closely in partnership to focus on prevention and early help. Within the overarching Child and Family Services Improvement Programme – we are taking forward the Systems Thinking approach to get the right level of help to the right child and family at the right time. More children and families are being supported through the early help hub. Swansea may be reaping the benefits of investing in early help and prevention, as we are seeing fewer children placed on the child protection register and fewer children looked after. Formerly the Information Advice & Assistance (IAA) team, the new 'Single Point of Contact' is an enhanced, multi-agency, advice and advocacy offer to help understand what is happening to a child, and within their family, to help decide if statutory support is needed and to find the best help quickly.

**Continue to involve children in getting their voice heard, and Adults and Carers about the services they receive, by improving our model of social work practice that focusses on a person’s strengths and assets, what matters to them, what their families and friends can do to help, and by coproducing plans to achieve better outcomes.**

The Children and Young People’s Rights Scheme sets out how Swansea Council will achieve our duty regarding the United Nations Commission Rights of the Child (UNCRC). A plan on a page of the Children and Young People’s Rights Scheme, was co-produced with children, young people and the Children’s Rights Network in preparation for formal consultation.

We also have a strong Co-production Network in Swansea, hosted by Swansea CVS, and together, a coproduction strategy aims to give people clarity and resources to build their knowledge and practice in this area. This includes the development of a training programme for staff to better understand and implement co-productive practice. Coproduction is central to how we commission services and develop policy, for example:

- Direct Payments Co-Production Group has designed a new Direct Payments process for Swansea.
- Practice Framework Co-Production Group is developing a guide to support people prepare for their assessment.
- Learning Disabilities Co-Production Group has supported the involvement of citizens in contract awards.
- Advocacy Co-production Group has designed a new advocacy service.

Case Study 2: Swansea’s Children’s Rights Network

Swansea's Children's Rights Network is made up of over 80 stakeholders with a vested interest in furthering the children's rights agenda in Swansea. We now know, based on feedback from children and young people, the key issues they wish to work on to make Swansea a better place to live are:

1. Protecting the Environment and Green Spaces
2. Quiet voices – developing systems for listening to children and young people who do not wish to 'speak up' but do want to have their say, e.g. digital platforms and virtual suggestions boxes
3. Supporting disabled children – working on making change so that disabled children feel integrated and able to have their voices heard as any other child would.
4. Equality for LGBTQ+ children and young people – developing resources that address discrimination and promote diversity and equality for children and young people who identify as LGBTQ+
5. Politics – developing resources for children and young people to understand what politics is, who local politicians are and how to organise change
6. Listening to Learners – strengthening collective pupil voice across the County, build [Children-and-Young-Peoples-Rights-Scheme 2021](#)

**Work with partners to raise awareness around domestic abuse and put in place effective and timely interventions and support.**

During the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Council's response to Violence Against Women Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) shifted to a rapid and adaptable partnership approach to the emerging crisis and the impact it had on the safety of women, and within families. Our VAWDASV offer works alongside early help, our safeguarding hub and the Child and Family Single Point of Contact to ensure a more coordinated response to requests for help. Also strengthening the work between adults and child and family services by working together on a whole system approach. Swansea Council prioritised awareness raising campaigns with a strong message that help is available. We developed multimedia campaigns involving staff from Child and Family services, supporting national messaging such as #youarenotalone, and ensured that local information on support services was regularly promoted.

**Case study 3: Football and rugby clubs urged to support White Ribbon campaign**

Rugby and football clubs across Swansea were asked to join the council in marking White Ribbon Day on Thursday November 25. It is a national campaign to tackle male violence against women by asking men and boys to take a stand against violence and to challenge sexist and inappropriate behaviour.

Swansea RFC and Loughor RFC signed-up with their players making short video pledges. Other clubs including grassroots and community clubs were asked to also join by posting their support on social media ahead of November 25 by using the hashtags #AllMenCan and #SwanseaMenCan.

Swansea Council Cabinet Member Andrew Stevens, who plays for Loughor, said: "Every three days a woman is killed by a man in the UK.

"Harassment and abuse affect women daily, in the street, workplaces and in their homes. It is a growing issue and it is our responsibility as men, to stop it.

"For White Ribbon Day this year, we are asking rugby and football clubs across Swansea to come together and say no to violence against women. Swansea men can make a change.

"I'm proud that my club is supporting this campaign and I would urge others - seniors and juniors - to join in and show their support for White Ribbon Day."

**Address social isolation and enhance quality of life of older people, within supportive communities by extending local area coordination and the range of support and preventative opportunities.**

We are looking at new sustainable models to improve health and wellbeing outcomes. We are supporting the development of a volunteer strategy and the development of domiciliary care micro enterprises, in areas where traditional providers struggle to operate within and to support to unpaid carers.

Swansea has a Local Area Coordination team covering the whole city to help people find the right help and support, now working in all areas, helping people to 'Get a life not a service'. A Local Area Coordinator can help anyone build relationships within their community. We support older people, disabled people, people with mental health problems, and their families and carers to:

- to build their own vision of what a good life looks like;
- to stay strong and connected;
- to feel safer and more confident in the future.

Swansea's Employability Team continues to support a diverse range of clients across many age groups into employment. Swansea's CREST Recovery college offers a range of mental health recovery focussed courses, and day opportunities are resuming after the pandemic. We must acknowledge the efforts of our workforce and volunteers in ensuring our most vulnerable people are supported, and in responding to the new challenges as Swansea welcomes new families and citizens from troubled countries.

**Case Study 4: Local Area Co-ordination**

When C phoned S, the Local Area Coordinator, it was initially to glean some information regarding her mother (who she was caring for). When they discussed some possible options for her mother, C said there was no way her mother would engage with anything at present and would not accept calls from anyone. While they were on the phone, S asked how C was personally coping. She said she was struggling to care for her mother as well as dealing with current stresses that were going on in her own life. She joked that she needed to work with S herself.

**What happened:**

S noticed this and offered to discuss it further. C was appreciative and they agreed a call the following week. During this call, C explained that she was in the process of trying to move which was very stressful and was experiencing her own health issues. Her mother was an additional responsibility, which sometimes made things feel overwhelming.

**Starting at the start – a Local Area Coordinator works within a local community and provides information, advice and support to help people solve their own problems**

They broke down what was important and needed focussing on first and it was C dealing with her admin because she felt unable to make a start. She had forms that needed completing that have been there for months as well as phone calls which could mean she is on hold for ages. She just could not face doing it. Together, they unpicked what doing one of the tasks could mean and discussed how it would feel to allocate half an hour and do one form or one phone call. C agreed she could do this and said she felt better with a realistic plan.



**Local Area Coordination focusses on information, enabling people to access what they need to know to support their decision making**

They also looked at support for her as a Carer and C has already received some support from Swansea Carer's Centre. Because her mother was not willing to engage, C said she has accepted that responsibility, so they looked at how C could be proactive with her own self-care. C felt that having some support and encouragement to navigate the things that were causing her stress and setting small goals that she could achieve would help her to start feeling more positive and motivated. S reassured her that she would lead the support and it could last as long as she needed it.

**Asking the right questions – instead of focussing on deficits, the Local Area Coordinator helps people focus on their own vision for a good life building on their own assets and relationships**

**What's next:**

C has completed all the relevant housing forms, put her house on the market and is currently awaiting to hear back. She said she was in a "real dip" for a while and once she made a start on the things she needed to do, everything became a little easier and less overwhelming.

**The individual or family leads but the Local Area Coordinator supports people to take practical action for change**

C feels as though things are moving in the right direction and she has S's phone number if she ever needs to call again.

"Thank you so much for being there. Things are starting in the process of getting sorted so hopefully I'll be ok now. If not, I may be in touch in the future!"

**Supporting our most vulnerable adults to remain safe and independent at home, by implementing the Adult Service model and rebalancing our service offer to focus on prevention, reablement, and recovery, including Community and Residential Reablement services, a new model of delivering domiciliary care and implementing the 'Hospital to Home' model.**

Adult Services is supporting more people in innovative ways, and the Council has remodelled more of its service delivery to people with complex needs who require care and support. Our Adult Services Service model continues to focus upon early intervention, prevention and reablement. We achieve the best possible support for people by making best use of community resources available supported by our highly skilled and valued workforce. Our transformational ambition for Adult Services is based on our vision:

"People in Swansea will have access to modern health and social care services which enable them to lead fulfilled lives with a sense of wellbeing within supportive families and resilient communities".

By ensuring co-production underpins our planning and commissioning, we are delivering services with people, rather than for them. There is high demand for social care assistance at the front door, and for social care assessments completed by frontline social work teams, with people receiving ongoing care and support, including support to carers as a result. We are challenging historic ways of working through a new practice model, 'Collaborative Communication', which focuses on working with the rights, strengths, outcomes, voice, choice and control of individuals.



#### Case Study 5: New Models of Delivery.

Working with elected members, building on a pilot funded through the Foundational Economy Fund we have continued to develop micro enterprises in partnership with Swansea Council for Voluntary Service. Working alongside colleagues from assessment and care management, commissioning, local area coordination and direct payments we have supported the development of a range of micro enterprises meeting a range of need. Current work includes a focus on the development of domiciliary care micro enterprises in areas of Swansea that traditional providers struggle to operate within.

Funding secured from Covid Recovery Grant was used to pump prime micro enterprises which were able to deliver services to unpaid carers free of charge for a temporary period. We are hopeful that this will change the narrative within carers assessments leading to practical solutions to meet carers needs via direct payments in the long run.

We are also looking into a pilot working with existing supported living providers and micro providers to look at how we can deliver collaborative care and support at a hyper local level.

#### Case Study 6: Day Care in Swansea: St Johns

Swansea Local Day services are transforming into innovative hubs and spaces where care and support is provided alongside a broader wellbeing offer.

St Johns is a great example, having been nominated for a social care accolade recently, the service has continued to grow.

Men's shed has gone from strength to strength, there are around 20 members who visit regularly, and they have formed valuable friendships that go beyond the weekly meet.

A ladies group was started through covid so people would have a safe space to meet and make friends, relieving loneliness and isolation.

Also an emergency food bank has grown to support people who found themselves without food for a variety of reasons, with the "food pantry" now sponsored by Morrisons. Through a period poverty grant, they can offer sanitary products as well.

Their community garden now grows a variety of fruit and vegetables which support the food bank so people are able to have fresh, wholesome items to supplement their weekly parcels. We are looking at having a weekly farmers market through the summer this year so people can pick their own, with the men's shed group are dedicated to making the garden a success.

St Johns also participated in a "kite project" last year, led by the Glyn Vivian art gallery. A giant kite was produced by the community and woven together from individuals postcard sized pieces of material. The theme was - what you want to hold onto and what you want to let go of from the covid pandemic.

The "People's library" has now started and is about bringing people together and sharing stories. It is the first one in Wales and is proving to be very successful. We are going to produce a book this year of stories that people want to share with others. It proves that people are people and were not so different regardless of background, age, gender or where we originated from.

There are similar stories emerging in other local day services.

**Improve the well-being outcomes of young carers and care leavers, through a range of interventions, including Information, advice and improved access to support services.**

YMCA Swansea and Swansea Council are working together to improve the support available to young carers. The young carers support service was the subject of a Council procurement and tendering process early in 2021 to reflect the scale and ambition of this new, emerging service. Through the formation of a Young Carers Board, engagement is taking place on a broad vision to create an inclusive movement, transforming communities so that young people belong, contribute & thrive.

Since the systems thinking review last year, the BAYS+ Service has been through lots of changes. The primary focus of the service in meeting the needs of including young people care experienced is: "BAYS+ will listen, understand, care about, and support me to make the best choices in my life. If I need to, I can rely on them 'no matter what.'" Info-Nation have redesigned their front door offer to ensure a more responsive drop-in service, and improved coordination of preventative service.

**Case Study 7: Swansea Parent Carer forum/PAN Parents Advisory Network**

Swansea Parent Carer forum are interested in how the system can learn from individual stories. The Forum listens and feed the voice of parent carers into decision making. Then to feed back to parent carers.

The group sits on working groups with the Local Authority, Health Board and West Glamorgan Regional Partnership. They also arrange training for other parent carers.

<https://swanseapcf.org/>

PAN West Glamorgan is a group of parents and professionals, working for a more compassionate and humane response to parents who may be at risk of losing their children, or who have lost their children to the care system. The project is parent-led, supported by professionals.

The Parent Café is extending engagement to inform, support, educate and influence parents and professionals in promoting the voice and participation of parents in decision making in the safeguarding arena.

**Case Study 8: Direct Payments to Carers**

We have extended the use of direct payments to support carers, and as an alternative to domiciliary care. The new Direct Payment team have been listening to stories of carers who have been receiving direct payments to support them in the care of a loved one:

'C' said direct payments is a fantastic service in terms of giving him flexibility by employing a Personal Assistant (PA) which work flexibly for him and his family's needs and requirements, as opposed to maybe domiciliary care with fixed days times of calling etc..

Having direct payments has enabled 'K' to utilise her time in doing lots of basic things which everyone takes for granted like. These are things that most people take for granted, to eat to feel fresh, improve health & well-being. K would like to primarily have time away from her caring role, and have a holiday, respite, quality of time on her own to rest, recuperate, and think.

'R' said the Direct Payment (DP) has made a HUGE DIFFERENCE to her quality of life

The [DP] has enabled her to do basic things in life, like sitting down, RELAXING, making telephone calls to family / friends and paying household bills. Sometimes the Personal Assistant is caring for her husband at home, so this gives R some time to lie down and rest as well.

*Further examples can be found within Director of Social Services Annual Report.*

**As a Dementia Friendly City, Charter for Older People, and through the Ageing Well strategy, we will support Swansea citizens who are affected to feel valued, to contribute and participate in mainstream society, and to remain safely in their own homes.**

Swansea is the first Dementia Friendly City in Wales, with the Dementia Friendly Swansea forum aimed at improving the quality of life for people living with dementia. A Dementia Hwb is a unique pop-up information centre, open in Swansea Quadrant centre, and staffed by a mix of volunteers from Dementia Friendly Swansea plus individuals and professionals from local organisations. Intergenerational work continues to raise awareness of dementia across Swansea, within schools and involving pupils with residents in local care homes. Pontarddulais Comprehensive became the first school in the city to be officially recognised as a Dementia Friendly School. Pupils at and their teachers were presented with the award by the Alzheimer's Society. This work involving school children and residents at The Hollies and Pontarddulais continues through bilingual awareness sessions and joint activities through the medium of Welsh in The Hollie and other local services. Swansea is committed to a rights-based approach to work with adults. Our Ageing Well Engagement Plan ensures that older people's views and issues are well represented and considered in all planning work, whether through the Big Conversation events, 50+ Network or through all our engagement work. Our Life Stages Team continues to promote participation, a wide range of activities and support networks.

#### Case Study 9: Ideas shared as council marks Day of Older Persons

Residents and community groups have been sharing their thoughts and ideas on reducing social isolation and ageing well as part of the International Day of Older Persons. Swansea Council's Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care in 2021/22 Mark Child joined them for a social gathering at the marina in October 2021.

Cllr Child said: "Over the coming months the council, working with our partners, will be looking to identify new initiatives to reduce social isolation in a Covid safe way, encourage active ageing and also tackle other issues that are important to older people such as digital exclusion.

"I was really pleased people were able to join me and hope they enjoyed it as much as I did and felt it was worthwhile.

"We have recently appointed Rhys Thomas as our new Older Person's Partnership and Involvement Officer and Rhys also joined us.

"Rhys will be working with community members and groups to hear the voice of people aged 50 and over and to work with them to improve opportunities to live and age well in Swansea."

### 3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?

Our social services carried on throughout this extraordinarily difficult period; some services delivered in new ways and some meeting different and additional demands. We will:

- learn the lessons of these new ways of working to inform future delivery models that ensure that we are the best that we can be in meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

Swansea Council has a proud track record of respecting the rights of adults and children, by listening closely to and working with them in making decisions that affect them. There are many and varied ways in which we support people want to exercise their right to take part in decisions that affect them at different times and in ways that make sense to them. We will:

- Retain our focus on prevention / early help across the whole system, and at the same time safeguarding and meeting the needs of our most vulnerable citizens.

We also need a skilled, professional workforce, across the whole social care sector, who are well managed and supported to carry out their work to highest standards. We will:

- develop new, imaginative approaches in attracting new qualified and unqualified workers to want to work in the health and social care sector, and in retaining their loyalty and commitment.

4. Conclusion – the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

Well-being Objectives	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Safeguarding People from Harm</i>				X	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:

*Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

The evidence shows that the Council has made significant progress meeting the steps required to deliver its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm. Swansea Council continues to promote a “Safeguarding is everyone’s business” approach; safeguarding our most vulnerable people by prioritising high quality preventative, well-being and social services, by continuing to ensure that safeguarding is ‘everyone’s business’ across the Council, within schools, with partners and through West Glamorgan Safeguarding Board and partnerships.

The Council leads on a corporate wide approach to safeguarding vulnerable people to ensure there are clear lines of responsibility and accountability in all service areas of the Council. By working in partnership, we are implementing the new statutory requirements and the ‘duty to report’ placed on all officers, elected members, volunteers and partners to raise concerns and help tackle the wider range of safeguarding issues now present in our communities. Swansea Council emphasises the rights of adults and children by using ‘what matters most’ to them as citizens, by placing them at the centre of their own care and support and by coproducing services to achieve better outcomes The Council is committed to ensuring citizens have access to high quality and resilient statutory social

services, and to ensure that Adult and Child & Family Services are robust, resilient and effective in getting right care and support to the right person, at right place and at the right time.

The Council are Improving outcomes for children and young people - by promoting rights of, and opportunities for children and young people, and toward better life chances for looked after children and care leavers. We are implementing a new 'Supporting children and young people to be safe with family' strategy, taking action to reduce the number of children and young people who need to be looked after by Swansea Council, where safe alternatives can be identified. The Child and Family Services Improvement programme continues to develop our social work practice and the high-quality range of services to support children, young people, and families.

We are transforming how we manage care and support vulnerable adults. We are working regionally, with health board partners and local providers to support our most vulnerable adults to remain safe and independent at home, with access to joined-up Health and Social Care services to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable Swansea citizens, and by rebalancing our service offer to focus on prevention, reablement and recovery.

*Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

The Council is working to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals when meeting its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm:

- *A prosperous Wales* –the local and regional health and social care market contributes significantly to the local and regional economy, with a skilled, professionalised workforce needed to meet growing demand.
- *A Resilient Wales* – we are supporting adults with a range of disabilities and needs to become more independent by promoting access to well-being, learning and work experience opportunities, including support to manage coastal, wildlife and environmental habitats.
- *A Healthier Wales* – by working together health and social care services have responded to challenges posed by the pandemic to safeguard people from harm, improving their physical, emotional and mental health and well-being, and by supporting people to maintain independence and quality of life throughout their life course.
- *A more Equal Wales* – ensuring equal access to health and social care through information, advice and assistance and building on strengths of families and assets within communities to plan their own care and support, and to reach their full potential, increasingly by preventing the need for statutory services.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – through supportive and mutually responsible communities working together to safeguard our most people, with Council employees, elected Members and people in our communities feeling confident about identifying and reporting their safeguarding concerns in respect of children and adults.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Working with partners through the Ageing Well Strategy to deliver the active offer and apply our learning to improving social care, and through intergeneration working, including through the medium of Welsh.
- *A globally responsible Wales* – the Council's safeguarding arrangements are informed by the Council's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and human rights of all citizens

*Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The council is working sustainable in line with the following five ways of working when meeting its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm:

- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* – by developing early help to ensure people’s wellbeing outcomes are met before becoming more complex, needing statutory services.
- *Addressing long-term challenges* –by doing preventative work to reduce demands placed on social care services from local population changes, number of children needing to be looked after by the Local Authority, vulnerable adults and those experiencing long term conditions, such as mental health, dementia.
- *Working in partnership with others* –by tackling domestic abuse and helping people to live and age well with partners through the Public Service Board.
- *Avoiding conflicts between public body objectives* –by working with partners through the West Glamorgan Regional Safeguarding arrangements and through the Public Service Board.
- *Involving people* – by involving carers and victims of domestic abuse in their care and looked after children and their families by focussing on their strengths and assets and what they can bring to the table involving parents, families and communities.

## Improving Education and Skills

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what success will look like

We want:

- Swansea to be one of the best places in the world for children and young people to grow up.
- Every child and young person in Swansea to achieve, to be healthy, to be resilient and to be safe.
- Children and young people to attend school regularly because they are more likely to achieve the skills and qualifications that they need to go on into further education, higher education, employment, or training.
- Children and young people to obtain qualifications and skills that are suited to the economic needs of the future and to be able to contribute positively as active local citizens.
- To prevent children from becoming disengaged from learning.
- As corporate parents of Looked After Children, we want our Looked After Children to succeed in school and to have opportunities for further education, higher education, employment, or training.
- We acknowledge that a child or young person with additional learning needs requires timely and effective support to allow them to reach their full potential.
- Our children and young people to be aware of their global rights and responsibilities so that they can be active and responsible citizens, fulfil their potential and make a difference to their communities.
- Our children and young people to have good Welsh language skills.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Support pupils, families, and schools to maintain continuity of learning and well-being during the Covid-19 response and recovery.**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented several significant challenges for pupils, their families, and schools across two academic years in 2021-2022. The Schools Scrutiny Performance Panel identified a few challenges for learners because of the pandemic including: insecure foundations for learning, a lack of progression for some learners, a few learners being more challenged than others, demands on the teaching profession and pressures within the education system. During 2021/22, schools were required to implement Welsh Government guidance as Wales moved through different alert levels with the aim to normalise the school's environment as much as possible, when it was safe to do so. In addition to working with learners and staff within our schools to implement the guidance, schools also worked in partnership with parents and carers to support them and ensure they understood the guidance and their responsibilities.

Although COVID-19 restrictions for wider society were relaxed in the early summer of 2021, strict COVID-19 control measures remained in schools until September 2021 with significant disruption to education continuing during autumn 2021 and spring 2022. As part of the Council's Achieving Better Together recovery programme, Education delivered well on key work streams within the programme with a particular focus on well-being. Our recovery work in Education was also aligned with Welsh Government's Renew and Recovery Plan for Education. National operational guidance to schools was replaced by a national framework for recovery in September 2021. In addition to national guidance and frameworks, we continued to work with our headteachers and with children and young people to listen to their experiences of the pandemic and views on priorities for recovery and new learning opportunities in the future.

During 2021/2022, schools employed a wide range of strategies for continuity of learning. Additional support for learners and their families to attend school was delivered successfully. In addition to support for learning, schools also looked after the well-being of learners and their families with mental health, anxiety, and bereavement issues, with a specific focus on checking the well-being of vulnerable learners. Schools employed strategies to support the well-being of their staff and worked in partnership with Careers Wales, Virgin Atlantic, local colleges, and other partners to provide opportunities to welcome children back to learning, with new opportunities and experiences for vocational learning. Wider support provided by schools included the provision of childcare facilities for key workers and the delivery of information technology equipment. The introduction of an efficient payment system for children who were eligible for free school meals supported learners needs well.

**Continue to support and challenge schools to improve attendance and pupil performance, with a focus on improving literacy (in English and Welsh), numeracy and digital competency for all children of all ages, including those who LAC, EOTAS or have additional learning needs.**

School attendance has continued to be negatively impacted because of the pandemic during 2021/2022. The normal collection of attendance data continued to be suspended in 2021/2022. Local data shows that nearly all schools in Swansea were at least 5 percentage points lower than attendance rates in previous year. In secondary schools, whole year groups and 'bubbles' of children in primary school were still required to isolate if one of their peers tested positive for COVID-19, up until September 2021. New guidance from September 2021, allowed schools to relax their COVID-19 control measures, although attendance continued to be hampered by learners testing positive for COVID-19 and requirements to self isolate.

During 2021/2022, externally verified examinations, the collation of teacher assessments for earlier stage key assessments and the national categorisation of schools also remained suspended. Despite the lack of performance information in relation to externally verified examinations, we have continued to assess progress against our Education Directorate objectives, Business Unit objectives and Performance objectives. Overall, performance against key objectives is good and for the majority of objectives reflects a status of suitable progress, addressing the priorities in most aspects. Our Education Directorate continued to monitor a wide range of data on information about learners, school staff, school buildings and learning outcomes through using Management Information Systems (MIS) including SIMS and Capita ONE. The key assurances for school management, governance and performance were now mainly achieved through monitoring and evaluation by Education officers. Although Estyn inspections continued to be suspended during the pandemic up until Spring 2022, we received a good level of assurance from Estyn about the effectiveness of our approach and activities in relation to supporting learners and parents and carers during the pandemic.

Support for schools to improve high quality learning and teaching has continued effectively through virtual networks, events and conferences designed to share best practice and focus on evidence informed professional learning. Swansea's Virtual School remains live and updated. Professional learning in this area has been beneficial and has supported practitioners and local authority officers to deepen their knowledge and understanding of how to use digital technology to enhance learning and develop their skills. The journey towards ambitious curriculum provision in Swansea has progressed well with many schools embracing changes to ensure that learners are well equipped for future occupations.



**Meet demand for Welsh-medium education and promote the use of Welsh in schools and socially through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.**

Cabinet approved the Council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022/2032 in January 2022. The ten-year plan outlines the Council's vision to increase and improve the provision of Welsh-medium education in the local area including increasing the number of Welsh-medium education places, promoting the use of the Welsh language and supporting bi-lingualism for children during their early years and throughout their school career. Work has continued to develop more Welsh-medium places with the opening of the new and enhanced accommodation and facilities for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tan y lan and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tirdeunaw, followed by additional classroom space at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bryn y Môr and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Y Login Fach. We have also been working to complement this provision through delivering enhanced provision at both our Welsh-medium Comprehensive Schools Ysgol Gyfun Gŵyr and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Bryn Tawe. We have continued to monitor data on the number of learners attending Welsh-medium and schools have undertaken assessments on Welsh-language levels, which informed our strategy to increase the use of Welsh Language, for example Welsh in Education Strategic Plan in accordance with the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 strategy. An updated knowledge of the growth of Welsh-speaking households in the local authority will be gathered following the publication of the 2021 National Census data.

In addition to improving access to school spaces we have improved our provision for Welsh across Swansea through training for teachers and the development of an accredited scheme for creating a Welsh charter in schools and support for the use of incidental Welsh outside the classroom. Provision to support schools includes high-quality professional learning, brokering school-to-school support, developing a range of beneficial resources such as a language continuum and Dimensiwn Cymraeg website as well as supporting latecomers to Welsh. The Welsh language features heavily in the new curriculum. Professional learning to support subject teaching in Welsh in Welsh medium and English medium schools is supported by the newly formed regional partnership Partneriaeth. A collaborative effort between the local and central team of Welsh officers will give good access to professional learning for all progression point expectations in the new curriculum.

In terms of vulnerable learners, all our Welsh-medium schools have received good support and guidance in building their capacity in identifying need and providing provision at a local level through the medium of Welsh. Additional specialist support can be requested from Welsh speaking educational psychologists and through targeted support that is provided by the speech, language, and social communication resource (SLCT). The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) also provides long-term aims to ensure that ALN provision is provided in the language of choice, acknowledging the likely increase in demand. The ongoing specialist teaching facility (STF) review includes a workstream relating to Welsh-medium specialist provision, continuing the cross-cutting review ethos of providing opportunities for learners to be included in mainstream.

**Continue to involve children and young people in their education and community through Schools Councils and Big Conversation engagement events. By continuing to encourage schools to become UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools as part of our commitment to the UNCRC, develop young citizens to respect rights, understand responsibilities and to be globally aware and responsible citizens.**

We have continued to involve children and young people in their education and communities through our Children and Young People's Rights Scheme, aiming to ensure that the views of children and young people are fed into decision making processes and they can influence decisions which

affect them. We have adopted a whole Council approach to embedding the voices of children and young people into decision making. During 2021/2022, we revised our Children and Young People's Rights Scheme and co-produced several indicators to inform the development of the Scheme. Children and Young People emphasised the importance of equality and non-discrimination. Members of Swansea's Children's Rights Network met in January 2022 to begin the process of co-production, drafting indicators based around the five principles of our agreed rights-based approach. Work was undertaken to facilitate sessions with 233 children and young people from eleven schools to determine the actions that they think the Council should take and measures of success. All children chose to focus on equality and non-discrimination or participation as their principles of choice. Children's Rights Network members have used this work to inform the development of performance indicators for the UNCRC Action Plan.

The Council has continued to build upon our engagement with Children and Young People to identify priorities during recovery from the pandemic. During 2021/2022, the Cabinet Member for Education, the Director of Education, and a Pupil Voice Professional Learning Community (consisting of Secondary School Teachers and pupils) developed a 'pupil voice manifesto' for Swansea. This work was led by Bishopston Comprehensive and supported by the Education Directorate. Each secondary school has now developed their own manifesto and work is ongoing to bring these together into one Swansea Pupil Manifesto.

#### Case study 1: listening to the voices of disabled children and young people

A new pilot project has been established in Ysgol Pen Y Bryn where all staff have undertaken INSET training on what it means to embed a principled approach to children's rights into their new curriculum. Work has been undertaken with pupils and staff to map existing good rights practice, and areas for development, for embedding rights will be co-produced by teachers, governors, parents, and pupils. This work has contributed to the development of a national resource that support schools to fulfil their commitment to rights outlined in the Curriculum and Assessment Act and Additional Learning Needs Act, i.e., to promote knowledge of the UNCRC, as well as to understand the principles of the UNCRPD to support pupils with ALN and/or who are disabled. This work is a partnership piece of work with the Education service, Partneriaeth (the new regional education partnership) and the Children's Commissioner's Office for Wales. A case-study of this project is currently being developed to inform a National ALN toolkit showcasing best ALN rights based-practice. This will be hosted on the website of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

#### **Ensure our vulnerable children are not disadvantaged by poverty or other factors that limit or restrict them in achieving and attaining standards and wellbeing in education.**

We have continued to support vulnerable children and ensure that they are not disadvantaged by poverty or other factors that impact upon them in terms of educational attainment and well-being. We have continued to deliver our plan to support vulnerable learners, particularly those with additional learning needs because of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (ALNET) Act (2018) through implementation of our Additional Learning Needs Strategy 2019/2022. Although the number of Statements of Special Educational Needs issued within 26 weeks has been an area for continual improvement, the transition to a gradual implementation of Individual Development Plans (IDPs) for additional learning needs learners has progressed well. The new system to manage the process around creating and managing IDPs now focuses on a more person-centred approach and maps wider support for children and young people. More places have been created to meet the needs of children in our special schools as well as extensive training provided to teachers working with children with additional learning needs. Work is ongoing in relation to reviewing the sufficiency

of specialist places for children and young people across Swansea. There has been positive feedback from additional learning needs co-ordinators to confirm that Swansea provides strong support to implement the new ALNET Act.

Work has also been undertaken in mainstream schools to improve the support for children and young people with Social Communication Difficulties (including Autistic Spectrum Disorder) and Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties. We have also continued to work with the Welsh Government in terms of developing a curriculum for British Sign Language (BSL) and continued to work closely with the Local Health Board in terms of agreeing roles and responsibilities and the provision of appropriate support.

During 2021/2022, we have continued to track learners either individually at school level or via the Vulnerability Assessment Profile (VAP) to identify learners who may need additional support and interventions. Around 10% of learners had VAP scores of 10 or higher in 2022. Local data based on the Fischer Family Trust (FFT) shows that the gap in attainment between Free School Meal (FSM) and non-FSM learners at key stage 4 remained during 2021. Good progress has been made in narrowing the gap in outcomes for learners with Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and non-ALN. The data also shows the outcomes for both minority ethnic learners and English as an additional language (EAL) have continued to improve throughout the key stages and these groups outperformed their peers by the end of key stage 4.

Performance data shows that there is a strong correlation between VAP average scores and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation - pupils who live in the 10% most deprived areas have an average score of 6.9 - compared to 1.6 for those living in the 10% least deprived. During 2021/22 we also continued to use Pupil Deprivation Grant (PDG) to support learners by facilitating professional learning for staff focussing on elements such as speech and language provision, well-being, attachment, and catch-up programmes. We have also used the PDG to employ staff to support pupils and families. In addition, we have continued to participate in a range of programmes and professional learning coordinated by a regional lead to support children and young people impacted upon poverty and are working towards ensuring that all schools have a senior leader who has responsibility for championing pupils who are FSM.

During 2021/22, we have continued to build on our strong culture of safeguarding within education services ensuring robust integrated safeguarding procedures. Key personnel, such as a dedicated Education Safeguarding Officer, have worked closely with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and other services, such as the Contextual Missing and Exploited Team (CMET) and the Early Help Hub (EHH) through the Integrated Safeguarding Hub (ISH) to provide support for education services and its learners. We have continued to build on collaboratively working with Child and Family Services developed during the pandemic to ensure that there is a shared understanding and assessment of vulnerable learners which is consistent across all schools, enabling monitoring, support and targeted interventions.

**Transform the schools' estate to meet demand and respond to the developments set out within the local development plan (LDP) whilst ensuring community benefits from contracts. We will, by using our school building and maintenance programme, reduce our carbon footprint.**

We have continued to review capacity calculations in our schools on an annual basis and share information with the QED Programme Board, along with other statistics on school places, to monitor and review the spread of school places. There is currently sufficient capacity in all sectors, except for specialist provision, and a short-term strategy has been implemented to address the pressures on specialist places, with a long-term strategy in development. Schools that are oversubscribed are

subject to strategies as part of the long-term strategic outline programme for schools to manage the pressure, realise opportunities linked to the Specialist Teaching Facilities (STF) review, or long-term strategies including linkages to the Local Development Plan (LDP). This year, new and enhanced accommodation and facilities were opened for Welsh medium primary schools, providing a further 402 places. Over the last 5 years we have continued to transform our schools' estate to meet demand and as funding has allowed and developed detailed business cases in the region of £150m.

During 2021/2022 we have also continued with our strategy to support schools to maintain their buildings. Working with Building Services we have developed a more robust methodology for suitability assessments, which has been adopted by Welsh Government for its condition and suitability returns.

Knowledge of our schools, combined with a comprehensive assessment framework and other analyses has informed the authority's approved Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) and resulted in robust prioritisation of current and future needs. Schools have continued to benefit most of the Council's annual capital maintenance programme, which is prioritised based on risk and consistent with QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme schemes. During the life cycle of Band B funding, more than 63 schools in Swansea have benefitted from capital maintenance. All projects within Band A of the QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and three projects (the new Pupil Referral Unit and two Welsh-medium primary school builds) from Band B have been delivered. A Welsh-medium secondary school is due for completion in May 2022, and an English-medium secondary by May 2023.

**Align our education system and continue to develop and enhance partnerships to ensure we create the right people with the right skills to supply the new economies and meet the challenge of the Swansea Bay City Deal. We will encourage schools to support each other.**

The Skills and Talent programme is a unique programme within the Swansea Bay City Deal, which aims to provide a skills training solution and the development of a sustainable skills infrastructure to develop the future workforce of the region. The programme is led by the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership (RLSP), a partnership of industry employers and public sector training and education providers. During 2021/2022, the RLSP completed a business case for the Skills and Talent programme, which has now been approved by the Welsh and UK Governments.

A Regional Programme Manager has been appointed to take forward school-based projects, engagement, and other initiatives at a local level. The aim of this is to create a clear career pathway from school education through further and higher education in the key areas of digital, construction, energy, smart manufacturing and life-science and wellbeing. Specifically, the Skills and Talent programme seeks to influence curriculum development and delivery to ensure the adequate supply of young people with the right skills sets. It is anticipated that the project will create at least 3,000 new apprenticeships and deliver an additional 2,200 development opportunities as well as creating centres of excellence within sectors such Digital, Energy, Construction, and Well-Being.

Our Partneriaeth Sgiliau Abertawe/Swansea Skills Partnership (PSA/SSP) has continued to build upon promoting, maintaining and developing Swansea as a UNESCO Learning City and developing a local action plan focussing on digital capacity and guidance for learners to inspire learners to consider the types of jobs and opportunities within the Swansea Bay City Deal. During the last year the PSA/SSP has developed further work in these areas with an emphasis on digital competence of both educators and learners as well as pupils being able to find out about digital careers. Funding has also been provided to all secondary schools to promote "digital" transition from primary to secondary and was used to design a digital transition project in collaboration with their feeder primary schools.

Further training sessions have also been delivered across all schools to try to improve the digital skills of teachers, including blended learning approaches and now hybrid approaches to ensure learners isolating/recovering from illness can be educated effectively. Teachers have also been trained through a Digital Learning Apprenticeship scheme and by Swansea University through Technocamps.

#### Case study 2: Schools developing a Climate sensor

One cluster of schools is trialling a climate sensor device from a local company. TASK, part of Vindico, offers a learner friendly device, that has inbuilt sensors including, temperature, particle, sound, and light. The device should lend itself well to the science and technology area of learning and experience including: a design and technology element (the kit is designed with Lego and will need to design the casing), a science element (discussion of readings and their meanings. Schools can investigate the particles from each school involved and why some are higher than others e.g., more built-up areas or farmed areas) and a computer element (analyse the data from the dashboard in a spreadsheet and create algorithms).

#### **Raise vocational aspirations and skill levels in the workplace, contributing to the development of ambitious, skilled young people and adults by providing apprenticeships.**

We have continued to raise vocational aspirations and skills in the workplace for young people by working with our Further Education colleges in Swansea and neighbouring areas and other learning training providers. Careers and work experiences form an integral part of the new curriculum for Wales. During 2021/2022, all our secondary schools continued to provide vocational courses for young people aged 14 to 16 either at school or off-site at college or in workplaces. We have also continued to work with Gower College and neighbouring colleges to provide options for young people aged 14 to 16, including those who are following an alternative curriculum. We have also continued to support the Welsh Government's Junior Academy, which offers vocational pathways to young people who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Employment, Education or Training). We have also continued to work with Gower College through our Cynnydd courses, which provides a range of support and learning opportunities for learners who are at risk of disengagement and has supported over 1,000 learners since its inception. Despite the challenges of the pandemic our Youth work provision has continued to engage with young people and support them into further learning vocational training and employment. During 2021/2022, the service held 466 sessions and contacted 894 known young people and 6185 contacts with unknown young people.

#### Case study 3: the Junior Academy

The Junior Academy is aimed at young people 14-16 years old who have a very clear idea of the vocational pathway they wish to follow and would benefit from a less traditional route. The programme particularly suits those who are at risk of disengaging from the school system and becoming NEET. There are currently 13 learners from four different secondary schools following vocational pathways in Landscaping & Horticulture and Hair & Beauty. Alongside their studies, each learner takes part in work related opportunities through a range of work readiness activities and sector related experiences. All learners who successfully completed the Junior Academy in 2021 progressed to higher level vocational studies, apprenticeships, or employment. The Junior Academy is very much a partnership project between Gower College and secondary schools with a welfare and progression coordinator responsible for support and progression to suitable pathways upon leaving.

The My Choice web platform is now well established and fully updated with the most recent prospectus. This year the RLSP and Careers Wales have provided up-to-date labour market intelligence for several priority sectors for the My Choice website. This year we have continued to work in partnership with Careers Wales to support employer engagement and arrange visits from employers to give presentations, deliver workshops and provide mock interviews. We have also continued to work closely with Careers Wales to support learners with applications for apprenticeships (which are completed through Careers Wales). Many of our secondary schools in Swansea have also participated in the Welsh Government's "Have a Go" initiative, which allows schools to borrow industry kits to support vocational learning. During 2021/2022 we have continued to work with our partners and to promote and provide a range of post-16 vocational training opportunities in sixth forms, colleges, training providers or through apprenticeships with local employers. Young people are then supported to progress into further vocational study, apprenticeships, and employment.

**Develop independent learning skills for lifelong learning to reflect the changing nature of work and to support well-being, creativity and reduce social isolation.**

During 2021/2022 we have built upon our membership of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities through developing our international links through our membership to share ideas and best practice. We have held 3 Learning Festivals since 2019, which have taken place in a range of different communities across the city and have been hosted by learning providers, community groups, community centres, the YMCA, and schools. Our Swansea Lifelong Learning Service have coordinated the festivals, which have involved a wide range of organisations including major employers such as the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), the Prison Education Service, Further Education College, two Universities and all schools in Swansea. More than 10,000 learners have participated in more than 400 events on courses such as Family Learning, Essential Skills, Guitar, Calligraphy, Art, Needlecraft, Digital Photography, IT, Floristry, Cookery and Yoga as part of the festivals

3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?

As part of our improvement culture, a few areas for improvement have been identified in relation to outcomes, provision, and leadership. Key areas for improvement in terms of outcomes include:

- further analyse with schools the impact on learner outcomes because of the pandemic, including basic skills in the early years and pre-school, Welsh language skills, mental health and wellbeing, curriculum design, teaching and learning, and assessment;
- develop a strategy to promote the inclusion to support vulnerable groups of learners and to ensure that the Local Authority has oversight of individualised tracking on learner progress;
- develop an Inclusion for Learners Strategy, focus on the few elements of the ALN strategy where further progress is required and finalise the revision of the accessibility strategy and plan;
- develop further sufficient specialist places for learners with ALN, including STFs and special schools, and support schools to build capacity to meet the needs of learners with SEBD to prevent exclusion or referral to EOTAS and embed universal strategies for all areas of ALN;
- develop a coherent strategy to support literacy and numeracy outcomes in schools and further assess the impact of increased Welsh-medium provision and falling birth rates within the English medium sector;
- evaluate provision within schools that have smaller numbers;

- in terms of provision (services), continue and enhance the effectiveness of Member/Officer engagement to inform next stage development of longer-term capital investment and school organisation proposals.

Areas for improvement in relation to leadership include:

- the development of the Abertawe 2027 strategic plan to succeed Abertawe 2023 for education improvement in Swansea;
- sustain the quality of leadership across the education system (school leaders, governors, members, and officers) and embed a consistent and high quality new regional improvement partnership;
- establish more effective collaboration with the Local Health Board to ensure the statutory requirement of ALNET are met to ensure vulnerable leaders achieve good outcomes.

Other significant areas for improvement are the need to further improve education outcomes and skills to take advantage of the Swansea Bay City Deal, funding, progressing projects that are in the final phases of Band B of the QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and commencing the planning for future school reorganisation and investment priorities.

#### 4. Conclusion - the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

A review of the evidence in relation to whether the Council is exercising its functions effectively in relation to its Education and Skills priority suggests that it is owning its ambition.

<i>Well-being Objectives</i>	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Improving Education and Skills</i>				x	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:

#### *Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that the Council has made good progress in terms of delivering its Improving Education and Skills well-being objective. Although the collection of data for many of the national performance indicators remain suspended and comparison with previous years or other areas has not been possible, good progress has been made with meeting the Education Directorates objectives, Business Unit objectives and performance indicators. There is a robust internal challenge and quality assurance process within Education and corporately within the Council with a clearly defined process for identifying risks and under performance. Although Estyn suspended its usual round of inspections during the pandemic, as part of a national thematic review Estyn examined the Council’s (Education) response to pandemic and was assured that a range of effective measures had

been put in place to support learners, parents and carers and schools. Parents and carers also expressed high levels of satisfaction with support offered by schools during the pandemic.

*Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

The Council is working to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals when meeting its well-being objective to improve education and skills:

- *A prosperous Wales* – Responding to the City Deal by ensuring young people have success in STEM subjects and digital skills, such as computer coding.
- *A Resilient Wales* – Schools in Swansea using an online energy analysis tool and energy education programme designed to help schools reduce their electricity and gas usage and reduce their school's carbon emissions and make a real contribution to addressing the 'climate emergency'.
- *A Healthier Wales* – Continuing to involve children in their education through Pupil Voice, Schools Councils and Big Conversation events. Topics have included mindfulness in schools, bullying, homelessness, and healthy relationships. Public Health Wales' healthy schools' initiative sees a high level of engagement in Swansea schools to promote nutrition, physical activity, relationships, awareness of substance misuse, emotional health and wellbeing, safety, hygiene, and the environment.
- *A more Equal Wales* – Ensuring that children are not disadvantaged by poverty or other limiting factors when achieving and attaining standards and well-being in education.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – Transforming the school's estate to meet demand and to respond to the developments set out within the local development plan (LDP)
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Meeting demand for Welsh-medium education and promoting the use of Welsh in schools through the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- *A Globally Responsible Wales* - teaching young citizens to respect rights, understand responsibilities and be globally aware by continuing to support schools to become UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools as part of the Council's commitment to the UNCRC.

*Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The council is working sustainably in line with the following five ways of working when meeting its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm:

- *Addressing long-term challenges* - Partneriaeth Sgiliau Abertawe (Swansea Skills Partnership) has been established to look at the longer-term employment opportunities arising from the Swansea Bay City Deal and other longer-term skills required. This will help inform the skills required for learners to be able to fulfil these roles. The 21st Century Schools Programme by Welsh Government provides opportunities to improve and create learning environments fit for the future.
- *Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse* - Early intervention is key to preventing problems occurring or getting worse. For example, the Cynnydd project support learners who are at risk of becoming NEET. In line with ALNET, early identification of need is important to support learners access to education. Good quality teaching is a key factor in successful education. If we ensure that Swansea teachers and leaders are given professional and career development that is aligned to national renew and reform policies and strategies, we can sustain a strong workforce to meet the diverse and emerging needs of children across all Swansea schools.



- *Working in partnership with others* - there are well established working relationships with other areas across the local authority; these include Social Services Directorate for several services to support children and young people. The Parent Carer Forum has been involved particularly with the ALN Transformation programme to support the Authorities preparedness for the new legislation.
- *Joining things up and avoiding conflicts* – continuing to develop our work with Child and Family Services to build upon a shared understanding of vulnerability and identifying those most at risk of harm as we recover from Covid-19.
- *Involving people* - the Education Directorate has a stakeholder engagement function within its Performance Team that provides advice and guidance across the directorate on ensuring that stakeholder engagement mechanisms are used at the earliest opportunity.

## Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what success will look like

- We want to raise economic performance and create wealth and employment opportunities to improve the economic wellbeing of Swansea's citizens.
- The biggest ever investment for south west Wales has been secured following the approval of the ground-breaking Swansea Bay City Deal on 20th March 2017.
- The City Deal is worth £1.3 billion deal and will transform the economic landscape of the area, boost the local economy by £1.8 billion, and generate almost 10,000 new jobs over the next 15 years.
- In Swansea, 100,000 square feet of flexible and affordable new office space will be constructed on Kingsway in the city centre for tech businesses as part of a digital village that will benefit from world-class digital infrastructure.
- The City Deal will lead to further property development on the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Waterfront Innovation Quarter in SA1 providing affordable space for start-up firms.
- The City Deal will also support the digitalisation of the 3,500 indoor arena planned for the city centre's Swansea Central development site, as well as the development of a digital square to include digital screens and digital artworks.
- The City Deal will further drive the physical regeneration of the city centre in line with our revised City Centre Strategic Framework – in particular, property development and enhancement and associated transport improvements, delivering enabling infrastructure to support regeneration.
- We want to take advantage of the opportunities presented by the City Deal and regeneration of the city centre by creating employment and training opportunities for unemployed and economically inactive people through community benefit clauses in contracts and delivering employability support services in partnership with other council services and external partners.
- We want a planning policy framework that supports growth and regeneration and ensures that communities have sufficient good quality housing at sustainable locations to meet community needs and support sustainable economic growth.
- We want to take advantage of untapped growth potential to generate sustainable energy, protect the environment and boost the economy, including continuing to lobby the government to approve the Tidal Lagoon.
- We want to take advantage of Swansea's natural, cultural and built assets and infrastructure to develop the economy while protecting the environment and improving well-being.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Prepare and implement a Covid-19 Economic Recovery Strategy.**

The Swansea Economic Recovery Action Plan expands on the Council's wider Covid Recovery Plan. It was developed in partnership with Regeneration Swansea (our local economic regeneration partnership) to support the recovery of the local economy from the covid-19 pandemic. It highlights key actions that can support businesses and individuals, improving the resilience of the local economy.

The Plan complements programmes and projects that were already underway pre-COVID 19. It sets out additional actions focusing on raising confidence, supporting businesses, championing local food,

supporting tourism, developing skills and employability for a sustainable economic recovery. It is drawing in funding and resources from Swansea Council, Welsh Government and other partners.

The delivery of actions of initiatives to stimulate economic activity and resilience within Swansea's local economy is ongoing, supported by deployment of the Council's economic recovery fund.

In May 2021 Cabinet agreed that a sum of £20m be set aside to support the economic recovery for the financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23. This enabled recovery plans to be fully funded and instigated with immediate effect. Applications are considered on merit by the Reshaping Strategy & Budget Board. By April 2022, 84 projects had been approved. These included Local Business Grants, Free Bus Travel - Summer Bus Discounts, Free Outdoor Public space for Hospitality, Sector Support for Tourism and Culture, essential Playground Works, a Pilot Pop Up Energy Advice Centre, and Changing Places facilities.

#### Case Study: Free bus offer boosts enthusiasm for public transport

Swansea Council provided free bus transport on weekends for everyone in the city during the summer holidays in a bid to help the city recover from the financial impact of the pandemic. It also wanted to encourage more people to consider using buses instead of their car to get around in the future.

A survey completed by the council has shown that many of those who travelled on the free service will use buses again and could lead to an increase in future passenger numbers. More than 450 people took part in the survey and when asked if the free bus offer would encourage them use buses more regularly, more than 75% said they would. Passenger numbers supplied by transport operators to the council for the duration of the offer highlighted 220,000 passengers used the free service in Summer 2021.

The #FreerideSwansea initiative was successfully repeated at important times throughout the year including Christmas and in school holidays.

#### **Lead the preparation of the South West Wales Economic Delivery Plan.**

Swansea Council has led on the production of the Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP) in collaboration with other authorities in the region and Welsh Government.

The completed REDP is the new strategic framework for economic regeneration at the regional and local level. It sets out how we will build on our distinctive strengths and opportunities over the next ten years to develop a more prosperous and resilient South West Wales economy. The strategy and its accompanying action plan identifies transformational project investment in the region that will attract future funding streams from all levels of government such as the UK government's Shared Prosperity Funding programme. The REDP has a major influence on wider policy development so is critical to ensuring integrated delivery in the future.

Preparation of the REDP included a thorough analysis of the evidence base on the region's economy, labour market and infrastructure to determine its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Extensive consultation was undertaken with stakeholders across the region. Development of the plan also included consideration of national, regional and local policy context including the Well-being of Future Generations Act, decarbonisation and the achievement of net zero by 2050, technological and demographic change and Brexit.

The REDP sets out three 'Ambitions':

- Resilient and sustainable
- Enterprising and ambitious
- Balanced and inclusive

These ambitions are supported by three complementary ‘Missions’, which will guide activity over the next ten years:

- Mission 1 – Establishing South West Wales as a UK leader in renewable energy and the development of a net zero economy: Taking forward the region’s major energy related projects and driving the benefits through the region (via industrial decarbonisation, supply chain opportunities, university-linked innovation, etc.).
- Mission 2 – Building a strong, resilient and embedded business base: Understanding and growing the business stock, supporting widespread social and commercial entrepreneurship, creating stronger supply chain and innovation networks, making public sector support sustainable; driving forward technology adoption and diffusion.
- Mission 3 – Growing and sustaining the ‘experience’ offer: Linking environmental quality, quality of life and community character to create a region that retains and attracts talent and investment, and to promote this consistently and powerfully to the outside world.

The REDP sets out some initial key action areas to deliver against the ambitions and missions. These actions, which include key economic development and infrastructure projects, form the basis of a ‘living’ action plan document that will be regularly reviewed by regional partners and will evolve to embrace new investment proposals as they emerge.

Development of the Plan is now complete and it has been adopted by all four Local Authorities including Swansea Council in January 2022 and the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee in March 2022.

**Take advantage of the opportunities presented by the City Deal and continue the regeneration of the city centre and work with partners to implement the City Deal to invest in digital infrastructure and support investment, innovation, growth, jobs, skills and productivity.**

In March 2022, the Swansea Bay City Region Deal’s Five Year Anniversary was celebrated at a showcase event attended by investors, partners and business at Parc y Scarlets. Swansea Bay City Region is the only City Deal in Wales not only to have all projects approved and in delivery but to have allocated 99% of funds with £1.296B of the £1.3B assigned.

This year saw approval of the Life Science, Wellbeing and Sports Campuses project, a phased project based on two sites at Singleton and Morriston. The vision is to integrate life sciences, med tech, sport and well-being to transform existing services, drive economic growth contributing an additional £150m to regional GVA, create 1000 to 1200 jobs, and to attract significant inward investment into the region. The £15m City Deal investment will support the delivery of phase 1 of the project collocating commercial, clinical and academic research in a Morriston Hospital centre with access to the site via the M4 and creating 2,000sqm of dedicated research & innovation space within Sketty Lane Sports Park.

The Skills and Talent Programme business plan has been developed and will fund a Skills Barometer project which will identify the skills gaps that exist in the region and identify the new skills required

to meet the existing and future needs of the eight City Deal projects across the five key themes of Construction, Digital, Energy, Health and Well-being and Smart Manufacturing.

The approval of a £55 million Swansea Bay City Deal digital infrastructure project to boost internet connectivity is introducing full-fibre connectivity to the city centre, business parks and across the region. Enabling technology such as 4G Advanced, 5G, Internet of Things (IoT) Digital Innovation Network etc will allow quality digital services to be delivered and accessed over future-proofed fixed line networks or wireless networks.

#### Case Study: Fast Wi-Fi boost for Copr Bay

Fast and reliable Wi-Fi technology is being introduced in Swansea's emerging new Copr Bay district, letting thousands of people stream content at the same time to their mobile devices. A partnership between Swansea Council and Vodafone will see the free service made available in an area that includes the 1.1-acre coastal park next to Swansea Arena, the new ramp at the former St David's Shopping Centre site that leads to the landmark new bridge over Oystermouth Road and the bridge itself.

The £135m Copr Bay works have continued to make significant visible progress with work completed on the construction of a 3,500 capacity arena alongside the completion of the Copr Bay site. The Ambassador Theatre Group have been awarded the contract to operate the Arena and acts such as Alice Cooper, Rob Brydon, Diversity and Katherine Ryan opened the Arena's programme for 2022. Following a test event profiling local musicians, the first event was held on the 8th March 2022 with high profile names such as John Bishop and Royal Blood performing in sell out shows.

The new bridge over Oystermouth Road, a new MSCP and the 1.1-acre coastal park have also opened to the public. Other components of the scheme, including the residential block, North MSCP, and church hall were all significantly advanced or completed. A digital square featuring digital artworks and ultra-fast internet connection speeds is being developed outside the arena. The Cairn Group have been identified as the preferred bidder for a planned four-star 150 room hotel.

The 12m Kingsway Infrastructure project, enhancing the public realm has been completed. The scheme includes new hard and soft landscaped areas, cycle tracks and a two-way single lane vehicle route along with the creation of wider pedestrian walkways. Significant improvements to the green infrastructure for the city centre includes living walls, landscaped parkland and over 200 new trees. The space gained from development will allow for more public space and improved pedestrian and cycling routes.

Construction work is underway at 71 – 72 Kingsway. This will provide low cost, flexible offices within a high quality commercial environment with high speed broadband and will accommodate Swansea's growing technology businesses and ICT focused businesses expanding from Swansea University and University of Wales Trinity St David incubation facilities. The digital village development is acting as a catalyst for new private sector led development and the refurbishment of further properties on the Kingsway and a new Central Business District in Swansea City by 2023. The new offices will provide space for 600 jobs in the tech, digital and creative sectors, worth £32.6m a year to Swansea's economy once operational. A new link between The Kingsway and Oxford Street also forms part of the scheme improving footfall flow in the City Centre.

These interventions highlight the Council's success in leading the drive for positive change for Swansea City Centre and its key gateways. The initiatives demonstrate a 'town centres first' approach in line with Welsh Government and Audit Wales recommendations.

Swansea Council has an ambitious vision for a city that is a vibrant, 24-hour, living, working and leisure destination. A strong emphasis on lifestyle, environmental consciousness, strong placemaking and digital connectivity make Swansea more attractive than ever, proven by the continued levels of investment coming into the city across all sectors.

Case Study: Swansea has been named one of the UK's top five green cities to invest in.

According to expert-led independent research, Swansea scored excellently in areas including the number of environmentally friendly office buildings. Factors including CO2 emissions and roadside air pollutants were also considered by international banking group BNP Paribas as part of a real estate study called Next X that focussed on environmental data. Swansea is the only Welsh city to feature in the study's top ten environmental scores.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Swansea Council Leader, said: "We are facing a climate crisis so the council and our partners are doing a huge amount of work for Swansea to become a net zero city by 2050. "We also need to create a greener Swansea to attract more private sector investment and employment opportunities which include zero carbon office developments, the introduction of far more greenery across the city, and the installation of more and more charging points for electric vehicles. "This will continue to cut our carbon footprint and make the city more biodiverse, and it will also raise Swansea's profile as a place to invest while opening up jobs for local people. That's why it's so pleasing to be named as one of the UK's top five green cities to invest in."

The historic but derelict Palace Theatre was acquired by the Council both saving a part of Swansea's heritage and acting as a regeneration catalyst for the Upper High Street. Grant funding was secured and design and refurbishment works are underway. The innovative digital workspace will offer a home for growing businesses in the tech, digital and creative sectors. Heads of Terms have already been signed with the lead tenant Tramshed Tech.

Another landmark building, the grade II, 1864 Albert Hall is set for £7m regeneration because of Council support. Loft Co were able to invest in the former music hall due to support securing grant funding and loan funding from the Council via the Town Centre Loan Fund. Plans for a mixed leisure, commercial & residential development are moving forward preserving the architectural profile for future generations. The £8 million restoration and refurbishment of the historic Albert Hall by Loft Co will create an 800-capacity music and entertainment venue, along with dedicated new spaces for lifestyle businesses and offices

Decisions to invest in the regeneration of the City Centre both before and after the pandemic demonstrate confidence in the City's regeneration. The £39.8m student accommodation development opposite the railway station is almost complete. The building will be home to hundreds of students and includes ground floor commercial space. The green wall dominated refurbishment of the Potter's Wheel building has been led by Coastal Housing. While the forthcoming innovative 'living building' led by Swansea based Hacer Developments will feature an urban farm-style greenhouse over four floors, gardens, a courtyard and educational facility as well as residential apartments, shops and offices. Living walls and roofs along with rooftop solar panels and battery storage complete the eco development.

The Shaping Swansea procurement exercise has now been concluded with Urban Splash appointed as the Council's private sector development partner for next phase of strategic site development. The appointment brings new resources and development expertise to the City.

Early ideas for Phase 1 sites have been proposed, and a design concept is in development so local people can their feedback and help shape the plans. To be delivered by the private sector, the early proposals include:

- The transformation of the 23-acre seafront Civic Centre site into a new city waterfront district for Swansea. A mixed-use destination anchored by the beach is proposed, with new homes and a strong leisure and hospitality focus, generous civic spaces and plenty of greenery. Other proposals include a new walkway to the beach and a mix of permanent and seasonal uses and events to create an all-season visitor destination.
- New office buildings, new apartments for residents and shared workspaces on the 5.5-acre Swansea Central North site located at the former St David's Shopping Centre site. Capitalising on the major growth across the UK in demand for craft-based goods, space for small creative businesses to make and sell their products could also feature.
- A residential-led regeneration of a 7.5-acre riverfront site in St Thomas, featuring family homes, apartments, new public spaces and a new terraced river walk providing direct access to the river for the first time in over 150 years.

In acknowledgment of the need to rapidly intervene and manage the contraction of the retail sector in cities due to the economic shocks of Brexit and Covid-19. Swansea Council commissioned Council commissioned Rivington Hark and BDP to review the current retail and leisure offer with the aim of informing and refreshing a high-level city wide masterplan.

The Swansea City Centre Repurposing Strategy proposes to consolidate the Central Area into a Lifestyle Quarter with a greater mix of uses, particularly within the central core of St. David's/Quadrant. The retail circuit is retained and strengthened by consolidating the offer and introducing complementary uses to draw in footfall. A key aim is improving the integration of the city centre with Swansea's residential neighbourhoods and wider infrastructure of cultural and leisure destinations, venues, green spaces and waterfronts, and identifying a 'heart' of the City Centre that celebrates Swansea's distinctiveness and urban legacy.

Four complementary themes update the vision for the city centre's development and regeneration:

- City Centre Mix: Reconfigure the current mix and distribution of uses to incorporate flexible and diverse uses for a mixed economy city core (retail, employment, food and drink, leisure, education, community, and housing).
- Urban Culture: Facilitating events-led tourism and provision of an inclusive, accessible and flexible cultural offer, through linking a series of multi-functional open spaces (existing and proposed), cultural and historical points of interest, and leisure attractions of the city.
- Green Core: Capitalise on the existing network of open and green and blue spaces to create a healthy environment that is also instrumental in mitigating the effects of climate change.
- Accessible and Connected: Creating a 15 minute city of interconnected laneways which are safe, accessible, walkable, and interactive through high-quality placemaking and data-driven digital infrastructure.

The Strategic Objectives of the Swansea City Centre Repurposing Strategy are:

1. Create a Vibrant and Sustainable City Centre Core
2. Change Perceptions and Make Swansea A Destination
3. Enable New Living and Working Opportunities In The City Centre
4. Promote a Healthy, Inclusive and Connected Liveable City

These interventions highlight the Council's success in leading the drive for positive change for Swansea City Centre and its key gateways. The initiatives demonstrate a 'town centres first' approach in line with Welsh Government and Audit Wales recommendations.

**Promote and enhance a diverse and sustainable local economy. For example, work collaboratively through the Regeneration Swansea Partnership to progress Swansea's economic regeneration agenda including delivery of the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme, and through the implementation of the local development plan (LDP) that supports the regeneration of Swansea and promotes sustainable communities.**

Despite the backdrop of a global pandemic, the council and its partners have relentlessly worked towards the regeneration of the area. The Regeneration Swansea partnership works together to maximise economic benefits from regeneration projects to improve the prosperity of the local area and its people.

The Local Development Plan provides the policy context for the period up to 2025. Its policies promote a clear placemaking agenda which emphasises that future development must accord with the overarching aims of enhancing quality of life and well-being.

Swansea is the regional lead for the South West Wales region 'Placemaking award' accessing funding awards for £6.5m covering the region. The Transforming Towns Placemaking programme builds on the success of the previous Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP). The Council has established a dedicated investment and growth team, to increase wider economic and social prosperity and the well-being of all our communities in Swansea. Over £1m of Welsh Government grants (Transforming Towns) has been allocated to local businesses.

An enterprise service supports business starts / self-employment, provides access to funding and sources of advice. Figures for April 2021 to March 2022 show 87 start-up businesses received funding totalling around £80,000 to help cover initial costs such as website design, training courses and equipment. Funding schemes accessed include the Council's Swansea Start-up Grant and the UK Steel Enterprise Start-up Grant. Also run by Swansea Council's business support team is a Swansea Start-up Enterprise Club, which holds monthly workshops with expert speakers to give new businesses skills in areas including social media, employment law and networking.

Small Business Saturday, a UK-wide grassroots campaign that encourages people to support small businesses within their communities was celebrated on December 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. We have also continued to support local businesses by administering Welsh Government Covid-19 financial support and secured a Kickstart bid from the Department of Work & Pensions offering internal and external work placements.

We aim to make the city more attractive and accessible all year round for pedestrians and shoppers, by encouraging the development of more homes with a mix of tenures, creating new outside dining areas and encouraging independent businesses to set up in Swansea. The Sustainable Living Grant has delivered 97 residential units in the city centre and completed a mixed use development comprising of purpose built student accommodation (780 bedrooms) with ancillary communal



facilities. While the Property Enhancement Development Grant has enhanced 3667m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space in the city centre.

Funding has been secured for the regeneration of Castle Square with plans for a new Water fountain/jets that enable a flexible use of space, the addition of green space and a range of new cafes and restaurants overlooking the square, this is due to be completed in 2023. In future, commercial units operating within the Square will share an element of responsibility for cleaning / maintenance which will be made clear in agreements. Maintenance costs have also been built into the project budget.

The completion of the £3m Reimagining of Wind Street project has improved the public realm and created a family friendly space. Distinctive new street furniture, seating, paving, lighting and greenery have been added and accessibility improved.

**Case Study: Eye-catching road rainbows add colour and vibrancy to Wind Street, Swansea's emerging new all-day destination.**

The multi-coloured designs span a newly-laid road being installed as part of the street's Swansea Council-driven regeneration. The 20mph one-way road - accessible only to business traffic (and only then from 7-11am every day) - also features three informal pedestrian crossings complete with tactile kerbsides for those with a disability.

Elliott King, the council's LGBTQ+ champion, said: "Swansea is a welcoming and diverse city. Wind Street will further add to its appeal - and our colourful areas of rainbow road will strengthen this message. "They will reflect the positive messages associated with designs used by those celebrating LGBTQ+ life." Work on the street's £3m upgrade began after businesses and residents had given their views on the area's future. Council engagement with local groups, traders and residents continues.

An investment of over £400,000 has refreshed Swansea market. The work includes new public toilets and a multi-purpose communal area, free public Wi-Fi, new interactive LED signs and improved entrances improvements to Swansea market, including upgrading entrances and the public realm, opened a market garden and the commissioning of art works.

**Case Study: Swansea Business Improvement District (BID)**

Swansea BID is a private sector led and managed partnership of which Swansea Council is a partner. There are currently over 320 BIDs delivering £136 million investment from their 87,000 businesses/organisations in town and city centres throughout the UK. Swansea BID is one of the older BIDs in the UK and the first in Wales.

As in 2011 and 2016, businesses/organisations voted to renew the Swansea BID and on 25/6/21, Swansea BID successfully secured a Wales record-breaking fourth term ballot with both an overall 77.4% Yes vote and 76.9% based on Rateable Value. The new BID term started on 1st August 2021 and will run over 5 years until 31st July 2026. The role of the BID is to help make the area it operates in a better place to shop, stay, study, visit and do business and it does this using the monies collected through a 1% levy.

Swansea BID operates in the top 20% BIDs in the UK based on its performance and management that is independently asset by national BIDs organisation. Over the last 18 months over 30 new businesses have opened, investing in the City centre and creating new jobs and careers. A range of events, and innovative improvements have taken place and more are planned. Swansea BID is keen

to capitalise on this positivity and collectively shout even louder about what's happening in Swansea City centre.

The Council's renovation of 277-278 Oxford Street (the former BHS building) ensures a large building is not left empty in the heart of the city centre. Instead, Council services which may include the library, archive services or contact centre previously sited at the Civic Centre will sit alongside services offered by other third and public sector services. This approach will ensure residents have easier access to services than ever before and make an important contribution to revitalising the city centre by increasing footfall and encouraging retail and residential investment.

The community hub will provide access to all and provide a range of services in a welcoming environment where people can meet and participate in social activities, learning and support groups. It will aim to promote community cohesion, opportunities for self-development and growth, support digital inclusion, improve well-being and unite and strengthen our diverse community.

The hub will also provide agile accommodation for third, public and private sector companies that endorse the ethos of a community hub. This will allow for flexible, collaborative office space that encourages a coordinated approach in supporting the community in finding and delivering solutions to improve quality of life. The Transforming Towns funding programme includes measures to increase footfall by making sure the public sector locates services in town centre locations, tackle empty buildings and land to help bring them back into use, and greening town centres.

A further public sector hub is anticipated to be sited at Swansea Central North with UK Government Property Agency considering proposals. In the interim, the Site of Hub will be grassed and put to temporary use (commercial units) whilst the final scheme is confirmed.

Works have also commenced on the Kingsway Employment Hub building to construct a major new hightech office development that will provide space for 600 jobs in Swansea city centre. Set for completion in early 2023, the five-storey development will include 114,000 square feet of commercial floorspace, providing flexible co-working and office opportunities for innovative tech, digital and creative businesses

### **Create employment & training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in contracts.**

The Council aims to maximise the value of the Swansea Pound through a range of procurement approaches and the development of the Foundational Economy. Community Benefit clauses are now included in contracts outside of construction, e.g. within our recent domiciliary care tender, to expand the range of opportunities that are available. Commercial Services have worked closely with our Community Benefits team to map the forward work plan in order to ensure appropriate contracts are identified.

We have also taken part in the Welsh Government's pilot to develop the Foundational Economy – Foundations for Local Success and are seeking to develop contracts with local suppliers to supply and install Solar PVs, supply and install Air source heat pumps and to undertake external environmental works. We are directly spending close to £180m direct spend per year in Swansea and the surrounding region and are developing new contract procurement rules to allow direct selection of local suppliers and contractors up to £140k. The WHQS programme contributes significantly towards community benefits

Case Study: Copr Bay boost for jobs and economy

Construction of Swansea's new £135m Copr Bay destination has led to a major boost for local workers and businesses. New figures show over 8,000 person weeks of employment, apprenticeships and trainee placements were secured throughout the build of the new district, which includes Swansea Arena.

Developed by Swansea Council and development managed by RivingtonHark, Copr Bay also includes the 1.1-acre coastal park, the new bridge over Oystermouth Road, new car parking, new apartments and new spaces for food and drink businesses. Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd are main contractors for the scheme, with the arena being part-funded by the £1.3bn Swansea Bay City Deal. The new figures also show a project 41.5% supply chain spend in the Swansea Bay City Region, with 64% of the spend staying in Wales.

This has led to the council's beyond bricks and mortar team beating off competition from the rest of the country to win the social value category at the GO Awards Wales, which celebrate the very best procurement achievements from public, private and third sector organisations.

A Swansea Council regeneration and procurement policy, beyond bricks and mortar ensures community benefits are embedded in all major contracts. This includes ensuring local businesses benefit from supply chain opportunities and working to secure apprenticeship, training and employment places for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive.

**Improve, expand and diversify leisure, cultural and heritage facilities and infrastructure to help boost the economy, promote tourism, improve well-being, promote community cohesion and provide economic benefits.**

Record number of visits (compared to 2019) to the [visitswanseabay.com](https://visitswanseabay.com) and increased engagement helped present a positive end to the year for the tourism sector with page views up 56% to 2.7M, Users up 28% to 608K and the number of sessions up 32% to 829K. The website continues to sell more event tickets for major events, Grand Theatre and Brangwyn Hall. Marketing support for events included the successful Christmas Parade and Croeso (St David's Day) event in the city centre. Our Enjoy seasonal campaigns during the period also supported other services and events and continues to be recognised as the Council's day visitor campaign to inform and encourage residents to participate in events and cultural activities. The team is increasingly 'cross sector', supporting the delivery of the city centre Arts Strategy and working with major event providers in readiness for summer 2023, resulting in the development of a new 'event brand' to harness the 3 major sporting events planned for this summer, highlighted below.

A busy Christmas period included a new and refreshed Waterfront Winterland attracting over 150,000 visitors, preceded an equally demanding new year into Q4. Alongside its regular programme of events, community and third sector oversight, including supporting the official Ministerial opening of Copr Bae and the Arena; its first public events and a Royal visit, the Special Events Team took on the management of the Digital Skin around Swansea Arena, requiring significant time and effort to understand its functionality, capability and best use. This asset has already proved popular with visiting artists and social media and will complement the other digital assets which have / are being developed in the city centre and which individually and collectively will be able to provide a fully immersive events experience in the future.

As the restrictions eased through the mid part of Quarter 4, doors were able to reopen safely with reducing restrictions leading to a successful reopening of the Grand Theatre, with strong audience

support. Work has continued in the background on the refurbishment of the Foyer to present a combined Box Office and Coffee/Catering offer, in partnership with Gower Brewery, alongside occupation of key spaces by Race Council Cymru, aiming to diversify usage, and a new production company in residence for the Auditorium and talent development strands – ‘Grand Ambition’. The programming challenges of re-scheduling shows, and lack of availability due to the pandemic disruption will continue to be a challenge through the most part of 22/3. It is anticipated that with good management and physical improvements to the building and the programme offer, recovery will stabilise and will complement the increasingly exciting offer across the city.

As mentioned above, the period saw the return of the popular two day Croeso event, celebrating all things relating to St Davids Day and Welsh culture - with live entertainment once again returning to the city centre, along with a busy Welsh produce market and a parade. In reflection of how the regenerated city centre will need cross sector collaboration, Creative Wales funded the creation of a new Creative Hub for the South West, to be based in Swansea. In collaboration with local businesses and Swansea University, the first phase of this is installed at the former Cranes music store, which the Events team oversaw the repurposing of, as a digital and cultural ‘laboratory’ providing training and engagement for local artists. There are current artist residencies underway with the vision to close the skills gap with our local creative sector and those working in digital realms so that we can fulfil the potential of the new city centre as a creative city going forward. This will be amplified by several ERF projects which are under commission including a mobile stage and the enhancements for the Amphitheatre in Copr Bae, alongside the continuation of support for community events, lettings, and sustained trading and use of outdoor space for covid recovery. We are well placed to secure this with a busy and exciting programme planned for 2022, including the popular Wales Air show, Singleton Park Concerts and some brand new events including Ironman 70.3, which sold out in record time, a Para Sports Festival and the World Para Tri Championships.

Progress on our participation in the ‘Unboxed’ Festival included identifying key buildings and stories in the community for the literature/ history trail in collaboration with Swansea Libraries and similarly, for The World Reimagined, we hosted sponsorship events, artist and community briefings to maximise engagement. We are now in the process of delivering training and resource support for teachers, artists and community groups, agreeing the route and ‘social history’ stories to accompany this public arts trail in future months.

**Work with partners to enhance our leisure and cultural facilities such as the partnership with Swansea University for an international sport village and centre of sporting excellence; lifestyle attractions such as Skyline, Gondola & Luge facilities; complete the riverside corridor works; and oversee the management and development of the City Centre evening and night-time economy, including the retention of the Purple Flag, to ensure Swansea is a safe, clean and welcoming place to work and visit.**

Substantial progress has also been achieved at the Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse project with shell and core works completion targeted for July 2022. The iconic Musgrave Engine House has been restored and Vivian Engine House repairs are underway. Work has also continued on the 110 year old Bascule Bridge working closely with Cadw.

Work has also continued with Skyline Enterprises who aim to create a gondola attraction with luge tracks, zip lines and visitor facilities on Kilvey Hill. The company has developed proposals, which include improving access and the ecology of the area. Heads of Terms had been signed by the Council and the Skyline board and survey work has made good progress. Although the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in Skyline temporarily stopping all of their projects across the world, Skyline

intend to pursue their proposed development on Kilvey Hill - subject to securing Welsh Government support for their proposal.

#### Case Study: Council set to continue support of Slip Bridge group

Swansea Council is set to continue working with supporters of the city's Slip Bridge to help them in their wish to bring new life to the structure. The council maintains a capital sum of £139,000 to help facilitate future plans of the Friends of Swansea Slip Bridge. This could include supporting specialist design work commissioned by the Friends. Other funding would be needed to deliver the scheme. Council leader Rob Stewart said: "We're supportive of the group's wish to reinstate the bridge and understand their view that it's important to Swansea's heritage.

"We've supported them in recent years as a source of guidance and we'll support them actively as they work through initial phases of their plan and look for external funding.

"The city's heritage is important to us as can be seen with our work with others to regenerate locations such as the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, the Palace Theatre building and the Albert Hall." The Slip Bridge was built in 1915 when trains - and later trams - ran along the Oystermouth Road seafront. It helped people safely visit the beach. The span remains a prominent feature nearby as part of the popular seafront cycle route. Its original stone abutments remain and nearby lights-controlled crossings allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross the road safely. The Friends of Swansea Slip Bridge plan includes a replica span in low-maintenance steel, a cafe and new sports facilities for beach visitors.

Work commenced through the quarter with stakeholder engagement to develop a needs assessment and options appraisal by consultants in relation to the Swansea Bay Sports Park at King George V playing fields. This work aligns with our efforts to develop options to improve the site and leisure offer, in partnership with the University, for improved community, performance and student/educational sport, delivered under a single partnership model. Linked to this, work was completed to install a new water-based surface to the lower Hockey pitch at the Sports Park, which is now Olympic standard quality from Tokyo 2020, funded in partnership with Swansea University, Swansea Hockey Club and collaboration Welsh Hockey.

#### Case Study: City aims to continue flying the flag for nightlife safety

Swansea set to fly the purple flag once again. Swansea's nightlife scene is bidding to keep the Purple Flag flying over the city for an eighth consecutive year.

It's one of only two places in Wales that can fly the flag which highlights how visitors can always expect an entertaining, diverse, safe and enjoyable night out. Swansea was the first in Wales to achieve the accolade.

Now a partnership of organisations has submitted its bid to maintain Purple Flag status into 2022. The bid highlights a wide range of reasons why the city centre is the place to be now and in the future.

As a national initiative run by the Association of Town and City Management (ATCM), Purple Flag status rewards vibrant, diverse and safe city centres. The quality mark is the equivalent of Blue Flags for beaches and Green Flags for parks.

Swansea city centre was first awarded the status in 2014 in recognition of the excellence of its evening and night-time economy between 5pm and 5am.

The new bid points to success stories such as new business openings, safety campaigns and the Enjoy Swansea Responsibly campaign to reinforce key Covid safety measures.

Forthcoming projects to strengthen Purple Flag status are set to include further regeneration, including the opening of Swansea Arena, extending the city centre ranger service into the evening and night-time economy and implementing a public space protection order (PSPO).

Partners involved in the management of Swansea's evening and night-time economy include Swansea Council, Swansea BID (Business Improvement District), South Wales Police, Swansea Street Pastors, St John Ambulance, Swansea University, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, many city centre businesses, Swansea Bay University Health Board and several local developers.

Cllr Robert Francis-Davies, the council's cabinet member for investment, regeneration and tourism, said: "Swansea city centre is a vibrant and viable place that keeps visitors coming back for more. Our £1bn regeneration programme will strengthen its appeal.

"Great initiatives by our evening and night-time economy partnership have a chance to flourish so everyone has a great time out in a safe environment.

"We're very optimistic about retaining Purple Flag status though achieving this quality mark is no easy ride; the partnership has worked hard on keeping people safe right through the pandemic - and will continue to do so."

Examples of city centre improvements introduced in recent years include a medical help point on The Strand dealing with injuries and those at risk from intoxication and a drop-off point on The Strand providing a vehicle drop-off and visitor meet-and-greet service. A Safe Spaces scheme offers customers information and support to help deal with vulnerability. Best Bar None now has 24 premises accredited for customer service standards.

The council has transformed The Kingsway into a greener, pedestrian-friendly destination, is developing Wind Street into an all-day hospitality quarter and plans to improve Castle Square with new greenery and other reasons to visit.

The Purple Flag partners will find out later this year whether or not the city has retained its Purple Flag.

Russell Greenslade, chief executive of Swansea BID (Business Improvement District), said: "The Purple Flag is a mark of the hard work our city centre hospitality and night-time businesses do to ensure a safe and enjoyable night out; we're pleased to play our part in this as Swansea BID.

"As a BID we've just invested in extra night marshals, to help things run smoothly as our students return to Swansea, as well as safeguarding and cleansing teams previously.

"We're happy to manage and deliver the Best Bar None scheme, that helps improve standards through a combination of responsible management, ongoing improvements, and social responsibility.

"We're also offering, with our Gower College Swansea partners, free training courses for workforces in BID area. We hope these initiatives help the city to retain its Purple Flag."

**Build on the legacy of Swansea's bid to be UK City of Culture by delivering the City Centre Arts Strategy and implementing the outcomes of our participation in the Culture 21 European Pilot programme by embedding the nine policy commitments for Culture in Sustainable Cities and the Diversity Pledge for Culture.**

This year has presented unprecedented challenges for the Leisure and Cultural sector. During the pandemic our museum, galleries and libraries developed innovative ways of working to engage with a wide range of audiences, providing on-line events and materials, whilst maintaining sites and collections. Our online content has included the development of weekly on-line programmes, lectures, storytelling, looking back at past exhibitions, conservation, future exhibition planning and selecting favourite objects from the collection through videos, tweets and images. We have also facilitated a number of on-line workshops and events and joined local, national and international partners to explore and celebrate cultural icons and themes. This year we continued to support LGBT history month, Black history month and Interfaith Week by hosting a series of online events, talks and workshops.



Our work for the European Pilot programme 'Agenda21: Culture in Sustainable Cities' resulted in the realisation of a partnership with Race Council Cymru to create a new multi-cultural and digital Hub in the Arts Wing of the Grand Theatre, and the commitment to Diversity in the service through a 'Pledge'. The pledge to diversify and recognise all our communities in our cultural programming also set the framework for a review, undertaken by the service, into the city's street and place names, monuments, statues and other commemorations, in response to the Black Lives Matter campaign and subsequent Council motion.

#### Case Study: World Reimagined Comes to Swansea

UK-wide arts education project featuring globally-recognised artists came to Swansea to transform how we understand the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its impact on us all.

Launched in May 2021, The World Reimagined is a UK-wide art education project that works to transform our understanding of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its impact on all of us to help us make racial justice a reality.

1m+ people will engage with sculpture trails in host cities, which will include Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, London and Swansea, with more to be announced

Participating artists and icons include 2004 Turner Prize nominee and The World Reimagined's Founding Artist Yinka Shonibare CBE, as well as Lina Viktor; Zak Ové; Sir Trevor McDonald; Lakwena Maciver; Maxim (The Prodigy); Nicola Green and Kimathi Donkor.

Swansea acted as a host city for this ambitious project, which will see communities across the UK collaborate and explore a range of themes and cultural influences. These themes will unite participants and audiences to positively understand our cultural influences, and celebrate the present and future opportunities for us all, through a deeper understanding of history and what connects us as communities.

Michelle Gayle, co-founder of The World Reimagined, said:

"If we're going to make racial justice a reality for all, it calls on us to courageously face our shared history with honesty, empathy and grace. If we do that, we can create a future in which everyone can say I'm seen. That's the mission of The World Reimagined and we're so delighted to work with the people and communities of Swansea."

Swansea Council leader Rob Stewart said:

"Swansea is a welcoming city that thrives on diversity. We're delighted to be partners with the The World Reimagined project.

"We'll help to create many opportunities for communities, schools, colleges, local organisations and artists to get involved - as leaders and facilitators, participants, practitioners, audiences and beneficiaries.

"Our local activity will involve widespread collaboration to create a unique arts trail across the city and its communities."

**Continue to improve and develop our Leisure facilities in partnership with our delivery partners Freedom Leisure and Parkwood, and secure the of our 'in house' Cultural services developing strategies for investment and innovative delivery models for Special Events, Libraries, Archives, Theatres, Galleries and Museums.**

Close monitoring enables the Council to support partner operators of key Council facilities. The leisure Partnerships Annual Report 2020/2021 reported to Cabinet in March 2022 describes how close relationships across a mixed economy enables flexible performance management and the sharing of best practice resulting in better services for citizens. The pandemic continued to impact leisure services but this collaborative approach has ensured safe quality provision of activities essential to well-being.

Project milestones continuing to be delivered within the Cefn Hengoed 3G Barn and improved Community Leisure and PE facilities, with a preferred bidder identified, increased Capital investment and overwhelming support from Cabinet in March, with a final request for funding from the Football Foundation due in mid to late April.

Continued restrictions on numbers for participant activity across leisure centres prolonged the challenges faced by these venues. This, as well as a high Covid rate in the community and general reduction in customer confidence impacted the bottom line in terms of income and new membership sales across the post-Christmas period, which will impact into the early part of 2022/23. Community sites performed stronger than city centre attractions such as the LC in terms of gym membership, and this is also contributed to factors such as continued working from home and the significant city centre developments which impacted on access and parking. Late into the quarter the new Arena car parks opened and this addition, along with completed walkways to the Waterfront from the Arena should benefit the LC in terms of parking availability and general access.

Freedom Leisure's investment into these facilities continued through Q3, with significant plans for both Penlan and the LC, including installing Hypolyser electronic chlorination, offering a safer, cleaner and more environmentally friendly way to chlorinate the pools. Mitigation measures such as this will prepare the facilities to be more sustainable moving forward, with shortages of chlorine across the world, and significant cost increases, the investment is now seen as critical. Energy prices continue to concern leisure facilities that have high gas and electricity consumption, and whilst mitigation has already been invested to reduce energy, the unit rate inflation presents a significant risk to the operational costs, and a range of further models of mitigation and investment are being developed by Freedom Leisure to present to the Council in due course.

### **Progress strategic housing and mixed development sites to meet housing need and provide employment.**

The Council's More Homes Programme, focussed on providing new build Council housing, is looking to a 10 year delivery ambition of 1000 new affordable homes. Following the completion of 34 homes in 2020/21, work is continuing on 25 homes on Hill View Crescent in Clase, which is due for completion in Spring 2022. This scheme has also been awarded £1.5m of Innovative Housing Funding, which will fund the renewable technologies to continue the Homes as Power Stations theme.

As part of the Welsh Government Phase 2 planning for homelessness, the Council has also developed 8 one bedroom homes at a former Education site in Uplands. The conversion of the existing building has been completed and is now occupied, and the 4 off site-manufactured pods will be ready for occupation in April 2022. A further 20 x1 bedroom acquisitions are planned for 22/23, as well as 6 acquisitions utilising Integrated Care Fund (ICF). Work has also started at West Cross, to develop 6 bungalows, which has also been awarded IHP funding to include the additional renewable technologies.

A planning application has been approved to convert a former social services property in Gorseinon into 2 x 3 bedroom homes, and work is due to start in July. The former Education site at Brondeg House has also been acquired to develop for affordable housing, and the existing building will be demolished to make way for new affordable housing. Cabinet has approved the appropriation of 3 sites from the General Fund to develop for affordable housing, and concept plans are now being developed for these sites. The demolition of the former Clase DHO has now been completed, as part of the Creswell Road development of 9 new homes.



The Council is also progressing the procurement of a development partner or partners to deliver mixed tenure housing on 2 Council owned sites in Penderry, whilst maximising the delivery of affordable housing to meet local need. The Council has also procured a multi-disciplinary team to deliver a masterplan for the regeneration of a large Housing owned site. This work is progressing however the timeframe has been extended as the planned resident consultation events, site visits and surveys were delayed due to Covid. The Council has also appointing a multi-disciplinary team to develop a masterplan for 4 x sites in close proximity, which should achieve planning application stage by the end of 2022.

**Protect and promote the health, wellbeing, safety and consumer interests of people living in or visiting Swansea by working with others to maintain public safety across the range of regulatory services such as pollution, scams and unfair trading, public health and housing issues, etc.**

Public protection teams continue to be under pressure due to additional responsibilities as a result of the pandemic. Enforcement officers have helped businesses ensure the safety of their staff and customers and taken action against irresponsible traders placing the public at risk.

However the teams continue to protect the public from changing and increasingly digital threats. Trading Standards took a proactive approach alerting the public to scams relating to topical issues like coronavirus, deliveries and the census. The Council is building a library of scams with Trading Standard. These are communicated to the public via social media and via the Councils Communication Team. A phishing campaign and training aims to make more people aware and help counter the issue. Use of social media to educate the public has increased with viral campaigns like 'the 12 Scams of Christmas' raising awareness as well as traditional alerts warning of doorstep fraud etc.

Swansea Council's fraud detection team detects people trying to abuse the system by claiming money or council services they are not entitled to. Last year there was a continuing high demand for the service, with hundreds of new fraud allegations made to the council. These ranged from organised fraudsters trying to swindle the council out of pandemic grants and other business grants, to those fraudulently claiming benefits or council tax relief or abusing the blue badge disability parking system. In total 49 grant cases were subject to detailed investigations in the last financial year which resulted in a dozen applications for grants being rejected, amounting to a £27,000 saving. A total of 379 cases of potential fraud were reported to the council in 2021/22, an increase from 302 the year before. Increases in cases were seen cases of alleged benefit fraud, council tax, social housing, and blue badge fraud. Of these allegations a total of 72 are currently either being actively investigated or still being evaluated for further action.

As well as carrying out test purchases of food items, the Council's Food Safety Team regularly works with businesses, conducting inspections of premises to ensure food preparation and storage meet national food hygiene standards. Trading Standards inspections of retail stores resulted in action being taken against stores selling expired foods. Since lockdown, consumers have increased their use of takeaway businesses so test purchasing was undertaken to ensure regulations keeping consumers safe were applied. Four businesses were fined as a result of selling undeclared allergens.

Case Study: City centre about to become an even more welcoming destination

New anti-social behaviour rules help Swansea city centre become a more welcoming place to live in, work in and visit. From December 2021, a city centre Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) will apply to behaviour such as drug-taking and drunkenness - and everybody will be asked to comply.

People who are vulnerable due to circumstances such as homelessness will be treated sensitively; housing and outreach services will be involved. The PSPO - part of a broader and coordinated Swansea approach to tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) and street vulnerability - is designed to boost the city centre which is already being improved. The PSPO - which had widespread public support in a recent consultation - means that alcohol and drugs being consumed on the streets can be confiscated before the situation becomes a problem. Fixed penalty notices can be issued for ASB such as swearing and aggression. Other action could also be taken to deal with persistent troublemakers.

December 1 was the start of a three-month PSPO trial in areas currently patrolled by the city centre rangers plus the Marina and Copr Bay coastal park with 120 engagements taking place. Initially no enforcement action is taking place - just a chance for the public to learn all about the scheme. If successful, PSPOs could be introduced in areas such as SA1, Swansea Beach and the centre of Morriston.

Robert Francis-Davies, the council cabinet member for investment, regeneration and tourism, said: "People are fed up with anti-social behaviour and want something done about it - the PSPO scheme will help address the issue. People should not feel intimidated or threatened by anti-social behaviour. The PSPO will also enable the rangers to tackle "professional" beggars who are known to target the area to solicit money from the public under false pretences.

Public protection teams continued to be under pressure in 2021/22 due to additional responsibilities as a result of the pandemic. However the teams continued to deliver services in accordance with regulation and perceived public risk protect the public from changing and increasingly digital threats. The Council is building a library of scams with Trading Standard. These are communicated to the public via social media and via the Councils Communication Team. A phishing campaign and training will be provided that will make more people aware and help counter the issue. It was recognised that some people do not like to do transactions online because of their concerns over safety and security.

**Following adoption of the Climate Change Charter by Council in November 2020, deliver the Energy Strategy to reduce costs, provide cheaper energy and reduce our carbon footprint such as work with others to provide sustainable and low carbon transport and infrastructure providing improved and cheaper connectivity and mobility and associated economic benefits at reduced environmental cost and improved air quality.**

A report was provided to Cabinet in November 2021 listing progress following the Councils 'Climate Emergency Declaration'. The report outlines that governance has been formalised both internally and externally with partners, including PSB (Public Service Boards) and regular programme boards and steering group meetings have ensured good progress throughout the last year. As part of the regional agenda the Council worked with three other local authorities to develop a new regional energy strategy, which was approved by cabinet in December. The report describes how the council will continue to build on the external working relationships to develop a 2050 net zero carbon strategy for the county. The report also outlines that a task and finish group has been established to bring together all the work currently being undertaken across the Highways and Transportation service area to develop various strategies, including Green Fleet (strategy already approved), Grey Fleet, Street Lighting, other transportation e.g. taxi, schools etc. and Active travel. The proposed approach will have specific strategies for all areas, and then a brief overarching document aligning the service wide approach to a Sustainable Transport Strategy. The report outlined further areas for

development and action, including an Ultra-Low Emission Vehicles strategy and the overarching Sustainable Transport Strategy by March 2022.

#### Case Study: Green light for regional energy and economic development vision

Regional plans and strategies aimed at boosting economic prosperity while helping South West Wales reach its net-zero energy targets have now been given the green light.

The plans and strategies were approved by the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales at a meeting on Tuesday March 15 2022.

Covering Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, the regional economic delivery plan aims to build on a major study that's identified regional strengths and opportunities. These include its green energy potential, strong cultural identity, stunning scenery, quality of life and well-established links between universities and industry.

Based on these strengths and opportunities, the plan includes a series of actions and interventions on how to best develop the region's economy over the next decade. It also sets out how businesses, government, education, voluntary and community organisations, social enterprises and other partners can best work together to realise the aims of the plan.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Chairman of the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales, said: "It's been eight years since the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy was created, and the economic and policy context has changed so much since then, especially in the wake of Brexit and the impact of the pandemic.

"This means a new plan is now needed if we're to make the most of South West Wales' strengths and opportunities, maximise the region's potential and further close the productivity gap with other, more affluent parts of the UK.

"A huge amount of regeneration is already either complete, on-going or planned in South West Wales, so this plan will build on that work to create even more well-paid jobs and opportunities for local people, while attracting further investment. This will help develop a more resilient, sustainable, enterprising and balanced regional economy for the benefit of our residents and businesses."

Also approved at the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales is a regional energy strategic vision, which responds to the challenges and opportunities created by climate change, carbon reduction goals and the green industrial revolution.

Including actions to help South West Wales achieve its net-zero target by 2050, the strategic vision places particular focus on a number of key areas. These include energy efficiency, renewable energy generation, distribution of heat, decarbonisation of transport, local energy generation and ownership, and smart energy.

Cllr David Simpson, Pembrokeshire Council Leader, said: "This strategic vision follows-on from so much work that's already on-going in South West Wales to decarbonise our energy and contribute to the global fight against climate change.

"The strategy will harness our region's low carbon energy potential, both on-shore and off-shore, to deliver a more prosperous and equitable net-zero carbon economy that better protects our environment and leaves a more sustainable region for future generations.

"It will also help quicken the pace of realising our 2050 net-zero target here in South West Wales."

Formally constituted in January 2022, the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales includes the Leaders of Carmarthenshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire Council and Swansea Council, as well as senior representatives of The Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire National Park authorities.

Introduced by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, it's one of four such bodies being established in Wales.

**Manage and protect Swansea's green spaces, coastline and parks for recreation and play, to promote health and well-being, improved bathing water quality and maintain Blue Flag status at Swansea's beaches to encourage tourism, protect the environment and support well-being.**

Over 50% of the County's area is identified as being of significant ecological interest. Nearly 70% of the habitats and at least 20% of species identified as being of importance for biodiversity conservation in the UK can be found in the County, and approximately 17% of the County's area is protected by designations at a European (SAC, SPA, RAMSAR) or National (SSSI, NNR) level. 5.2 The landscape is of critical importance within the County, as it provides a striking setting for the City and at least 40% of the County (the Gower AONB) is recognised as being landscape of national importance. Most of the AONB coastline is also designated as Heritage Coast which extends for 59km. Gower attracts large numbers of visitors and tourism is very important for the local economy.

CEEQUAL is the World leading sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and public realm projects. The BRE Academy have verified and ratified that Kingsway Urban Park has achieved the CEEQUAL award. The County supports an extensive greenspace network, which is vital to economic, environmental and community well-being, and additional green infrastructure is needed to meet national guidance and local requirements for improving accessibility to open space. In particular improvements to linkages between open spaces, public rights of way and key destinations are needed to increase accessibility and promote physical activity.

Caswell Bay, Langland Bay and Port Eynon have all been awarded the prestigious international Blue Flag status for 2021. Swansea Marina has also retained its status as one of the few Blue Flag Marinas in Wales. While Bracelet Bay has also received the coveted Green Coast Award in recognition of its untouched and rugged beauty. The award replaces the Blue Flag award but visitors can be assured that the beach and the water quality at Bracelet Bay are still of Blue Flag quality.

Our efforts to make Caswell Bay more accessible has been recognised at the Celebrating Rural Wales Awards. Our Changing Places unit was one of five shortlisted in the Food and Tourism category and was praised by Rural Affairs Minister, Lesley Griffiths. We've also secured Welsh Government funding for another two Changing Places units in Mumbles and Rhossili.

Demand for services such as beach huts continued to increase post pandemic with around 1000 applications for less than 80 available seasonal beach huts. The Swansea Bay Strategy is currently being revised to update the existing 2008 document, this focuses on strategic locations on the foreshore.

The Green Flag Award programme is delivered in Wales by environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government. Sites are judged against eight strict criteria, including biodiversity, cleanliness, environmental management and community involvement. A total of 13 'community awards' have also been given to smaller community based gardens and green spaces, including two new winners - Clydach Community Garden and Blaenymaes Community Garden.

In Swansea, the Council's Clyne Gardens, Singleton Botanical Gardens, Brynmill Park, Parc Llewelyn, Cwmdonkin Park and Victoria Park have all gained the prestigious flag status. Our efforts to make Caswell Bay more accessible has been recognised at the Celebrating Rural Wales Awards. Our Changing Places unit was one of five shortlisted in the Food and Tourism category and was praised by Rural Affairs Minister, Lesley Griffiths. We've also secured Welsh Government funding for another two Changing Places units in Mumbles and Rhossili.

#### Case Study: Green flag awarded to Swansea parks

Six of Swansea's main parks have been awarded Green Flag status, recognising the vital role they play in boosting residents' wellbeing and improving the natural environment.

Clyne Gardens, Singleton Botanical Gardens, Brynmill Park, Parc Llewelyn, Cwmdonkin Park and Victoria Park have all gained the prestigious flag status.

All the parks are managed by Swansea Council and welcome thousands of visitors each year.

The Green Flag Award programme is delivered in Wales by environmental charity Keep Wales Tidy, with support from Welsh Government. Sites are judged against eight strict criteria, including biodiversity, cleanliness, environmental management and community involvement.

Swansea's parks are some of the 265 parks and green spaces across Wales to achieve the award.

Robert Francis Davies, Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration and Tourism, said: "Our city is blessed with some beautiful parks which we are proud of and work hard to maintain.

"They all provide a space where families and visitors can relax, have fun and enjoy the outdoors. I'm thrilled that these locations have been recognised on a national level."

Two more Green Flag Awards have also been given to Swansea University Singleton Campus and Penllergare Valley Woods.

And a total of 14 'community awards' have also been given to smaller community based gardens and green spaces in Swansea, including Clydach Community Garden, Polly's Park in St Thomas and Coedbach Park.

#### **Work in partnership with Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and the three other regional Councils to develop a Metro solution which will improve connectivity to, and across the City and the wider region.**

Early ideas on potential rail and bus service improvements for passengers throughout the Swansea Bay City Region have been discussed. A presentation from regional local authority heads of transport covered aspirations for the future as well as current transport projects being delivered in Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The presentation, which was given at the Corporate Joint Committee for South West Wales, will help prepare for the development of a regional transport plan once the early ideas have been further explored and detailed guidance from the Welsh Government is made available later this year. Further partnership work with the Welsh Government, Transport for Wales and transport providers would also take place to identify transport priorities for the region. When it's developed in detail, opportunities will be made available for local people, local businesses and other organisations across South West Wales to give feedback and help shape the regional transport plan which - subject to approval - would enable bids for funding. As well as improving rail and bus services, priorities could include further decarbonising the public transport fleet, introducing more electric vehicle charging points, and creating even more high-quality cycling and walking routes. This would help tackle climate change by further cutting the region's carbon footprint.

Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro proposals were also discussed at the meeting. Subject to approvals, funding and consultation, they include potential new railway stations at several communities in Swansea and Neath Port Talbot, which could follow-on from current work to re-open the railway station at St Clears in Carmarthenshire. Station improvements are also proposed as part of the metro vision for Neath, Swansea, Llanelli, Carmarthen, Whitland, Haverfordwest and Milford Haven, along with more frequent trains to better connect Pembrokeshire and Carmarthenshire with Swansea, Neath Port Talbot and beyond. Other metro aspirations include improved and better-connected bus routes in many parts of the region, both rural and urban. The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee is aimed at further driving economic prosperity across the region. It's made up of the Leaders of Carmarthenshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire

Council and Swansea Council, as well as senior representatives of the Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire National Park Authorities

3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?

- Regional Economic Delivery Plan - Lead implementation of South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan in Swansea and associated work packages and funding streams such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Welsh Government sources.
- Diverse and sustainable local economy - Promote and enhance a diverse and sustainable local economy through strong local networks such as the Regeneration Swansea Partnership, development partner Urban Splash and leisure delivery partners Freedom Leisure and Parkwood, to progress Swansea's economic regeneration and cultural agendas including delivery of the Welsh Government Transforming Towns programme, Creative Wales, and through the implementation of the Local Development Plan (LDP) that supports the regeneration of Swansea and promotes sustainable communities underpinned by sustainable transport connectivity.
- Community Benefit clauses - Create employment & training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in contracts.
- Business support - Leverage of support, advice and funding for new start-up businesses and our existing business stock through Business Swansea and working with Welsh Government to continue to innovate support programmes such as commercial meanwhile uses, and other support interventions in City Centre and District and Local Centres.
- Creative Network - Continue to work through strong and resilient Creative Network to support both existing, under development and future fabric of cultural and leisure assets embedded across the City Centre and District and local centres.
- Housing - Progress strategic housing and mixed development sites to meet housing need and provide employment.
- Public protection - Protect and promote the health, wellbeing, safety and consumer interests of people living in or visiting Swansea by working with others to maintain public safety across the range of regulatory services such as pollution, scams and unfair trading, public health and housing issues, etc.

4. Conclusion - the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

A review of the evidence in relation to whether the Council is exercising its functions effectively in relation to its Economy & Infrastructure priority suggests that it is owning its ambition.

<i>Well-being Objectives</i>	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Transforming our Economy &amp; Infrastructure</i>				x	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a 'business as usual' mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:

*Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

There has been significant visible progress on Swansea Council's major regeneration and infrastructure projects despite a challenging period. The Council continues to commit significant resource to the delivery of its regeneration priorities and visible results are currently being delivered on site. This focus has not only ensures the Council's long term strategic intent is realised but the city is appropriately supported to emerge from a difficult period, stronger and more resilient to future shocks.

Developments are largely on programme and are providing the catalyst for future investment by the private sector. This is evidenced by the recent appointment of a long term development partner to deliver future phases of regeneration via the Shaping Swansea procurement project. Work has commenced on the design stages of the first phase of projects.

In addition, strategy development work has identified projects, interventions and initiatives for the future, ensuring momentum will be maintained in the future with this priority. The REDP is already being used to leverage funding to take forward the next stage of Swansea's regeneration building on the strong foundation work accomplished over the last year.

Overall performance outcomes are largely positive. Although some indicators are showing downward trends, relevant, explanatory comments have been provided based on the specific circumstances prevailing. The Council is demonstratively exercising its functions effectively in relation to Economy and Infrastructure.

*Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

Swansea Council is maximising its contribution to its Well-being Objectives and National Goals.

- *A prosperous Wales* – Implementing the City Deal with partners to invest in digital infrastructure and support investment, innovation, growth, jobs, skills and productivity. Building sustainable development principles into the re-development of the city centre by incorporating requirements for resource efficiency (waste and energy), renewables, enhancing biodiversity / green infrastructure and the sustainable use of natural resources that support a productive and low carbon economy and adapt / mitigate for climate change. Maximising benefits from grant funding applications.
- *A Resilient Wales* – Promoting the 'Green Economy' including renewable energy to provide energy security, climate change mitigation and economic benefits. Promotion of green infrastructure methods in developments.
- *A Healthier Wales* – Promoting biodiversity and protecting Swansea's green spaces, including parks for recreation and play and to promote health and well-being. Managing Swansea's coastline and promoting improved drinking water quality and Blue Flag status to encourage tourism, protect the environment and support well-being.
- *A more Equal Wales* – Creating employment and training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in Council contracts.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – Giving priority to providing affordable housing.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Improving, expanding and diversifying leisure, cultural and heritage facilities and infrastructure to help boost the economy, promote tourism and improve well-being.

- *A globally responsible Wales* – Building sustainable development principles into the redevelopment of the city centre particularly around resource efficiency and the sustainable use of natural resources contributes to a low carbon economy and adapt / mitigate for climate change. Encouraging grant applicants to adopt green infrastructure measures in building refurbishments.

*Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The Council is working to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals when meeting its Economy and Infrastructure well-being objective:

- *Addressing long term challenges or trends* - The Council is working regionally, leading the production of a Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP) for South West Wales. The REDP is an evidence based long term framework for addressing the challenges and maximising the opportunities. The REDP has now been adopted by all 4 authorities and the CJC and will form the basis for programmes, projects and funding bids going forward.
- *Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse* - A repurposing strategy has been prepared to tackle and help reverse the Covid related impact of changes to the retail sector in the City Centre. The strategy has now been approved by Cabinet and projects are under development.
- *Integration – joining things up and avoiding duplication / conflicting priorities* - A Covid economic recovery strategy has been prepared with stakeholders via the Regeneration Swansea Partnership to ensure joined up delivery of a range of priorities. Funding has been deployed via the Council's Economic Recovery Fund. Significant progress has been made in the delivery of the action plan via the Council and stakeholders on the Regeneration Swansea Partnership.
- *Involving people* - including the public, service users and stakeholders: A Covid economic recovery strategy has been prepared with stakeholders via the Regeneration Swansea Partnership to ensure joined up delivery of a range of priorities. All major projects involve a diversity of citizens from the earliest stage and use input to improve development.
- *Working in partnership and collaborating with other organisations:* The Council is leading the regional coordination of the Welsh Government's Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme, delivering locally in partnership with private sector organisations. Discussions are underway to roll out this approach to regional delivery to other funding opportunities.



## Tackling Poverty

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what success will look like

- Swansea Council is committed to reducing poverty and the impacts that poverty has upon its residents. Poverty limits aspirations, damages relationships and ensures a loss of life chances.
- We want a Swansea where having poverty is not a barrier to doing well at school, having a healthy and vibrant life, developing skills and qualifications and having a good job and income.
- We want to challenge inadequate access to necessary services of good quality by targeting resources where they have the most effect, with decisions about that made in conjunction with service users.
- We want all of our residents to have the opportunity and resources to join in with social, cultural and leisure activities and decision-making.
- We want people to maximise their income and get the most out of the money that they have.
- We want people to avoid paying the 'Poverty Premium', the extra costs people on low incomes must pay for essentials such as fuel and transport.
- We want to ensure removal of barriers to employment such as transport and childcare.
- We want to ensure inclusion of people from Swansea's most disadvantaged communities so that we reduce inequalities between and within communities.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Provide a joint and holistic response to poverty, population health and homelessness during the Council's COVID-19 response and recovery.**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented challenges to the Council, its services and the workforce. In terms of responding to the immediate challenges of the pandemic a number of non-essential services were suspended in order to redeploy resources and refocus services to areas where they were most needed. Since the start of the pandemic, the Council has transformed the way it has worked developing a joint and holistic response to the pandemic during the recovery phase.

Working with Health and other partners, the Council responded to the immediate priorities presented by the pandemic in our hospitals, care homes, schools and our communities. We established a help line to provide daily support to thousands of people, re-focused Social Services to care for the most vulnerable people, constructed a new field hospital, procured PPE across the region, established food hubs and supported food banks, distributed food parcels and provided hot meals to vulnerable people, provided financial assistance to businesses across the region and secured additional emergency accommodation. We also established a Track, Trace and Protect service, supported the preparations for mass vaccinations and enforced Welsh Government regulations to ensure people were safe.

Our holistic and joint response to the immediate priorities presented by the pandemic, was only made possible by the re-focusing and re-deployment of staff, improved joint working between departments within the Council and working together with our partners and volunteers in our communities. For example, hundreds of Council staff employees were re-deployed into crisis response roles such as the COVID-19 helpline, the food administration team, and the Local Area Coordination team. Departments within the Council such as Education and Social Services improved

joint working through the development of shared criteria and understanding vulnerability with a Single Point of Contact in relation to vulnerable children accessing on site provision. Working with our Third Sector partners and hundreds of volunteers we established food distribution centres, delivered emergency food parcels and provided temporary accommodation to those households who would not normally be in priority need.

During 2021/22, we distributed over £293k to 97 projects via the Food Poverty Grant, Period Dignity in Communities Grant, the Household Support Grant and Men's Shed's funding to address poverty and social isolation. Partnership working and collaboration has been strong and has been demonstrated by the development of new partnership initiatives, such as a Fuel Poverty Voucher Scheme with Citizens Advice, a Community Calling Project with Hubbub, O2 and SCVS, a Community Coordination Programme with the Children's Society and various partners across Swansea and supported the launch of the 'Hope in Swansea' App led by Matthew's House.

#### Case study 1: Community Calling

Swansea Council and Swansea Council for Voluntary Service have supported the development of a Community Calling campaign run by Hubbub and O2. Around 700 donated phones have been distributed to people in Swansea who were digitally excluded, by O2 providing 12 months of free data and unlimited calls and texts.

So far, around 500 residents in Swansea have benefited from the project. The phones have been used by people to help stay connected with friends and support services, to look for jobs and training, access to English language courses online and access to other services such as online banking and health appointment.

The phones have been distributed through a referral process to SCVS with current referral partners including Swansea YMCA, Swansea Tenancy Support Unit, Hafal, Pobl, Swansea Asylum Seekers Support, Platform, Matthew's House, Family Housing Association, Women's Aid Swansea, Action for Children, the Wallich, the council's Employability Service, Swansea Working and the Council's Local Area Coordinators.

#### Case study 2: The Hope in Swansea App

The Hope in Swansea App was launched in August 2021. It is a free smartphone app which signposts users to a range of essential support services in relation to housing, mental health, food poverty, isolation, abuse, addiction and other issue people faces in a crisis. It was founded by Matthew's House and funded with support from Swansea Council, the Children's Society and the Friends of Matthew's House scheme. The App contains the details of more than 60 service providers and is a one-stop directory of services which includes information includes about local services, locations, opening times and emergency contacts. Local providers can register and upload or change their details for free aiming to ensure that the details are always up to date and relevant. The App is also designed for professionals, local volunteers and anyone who comes across someone on the street needing help.

#### Case study 3: Bed promise for rough sleepers in Swansea

Every rough sleeper in Swansea was offered a bed if they want one, the Council pledged. The long-standing promise was repeated in November 2021 to vulnerable people living in the city as the winter nights got colder and was boosted with another £370,000 of support. The place to sleep

promise was delivered by the council alongside local charities, health services and housing associations.

And it came as the number of people sleeping rough in Swansea had reduced to its lowest level on record during the pandemic. Although there were considerable challenges ahead, the Council pledged to continue the effort put in to support rough sleepers through the pandemic and help them stay safe and healthy.

Cllr Andrea Lewis, Joint Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Service Transformation in 2021/22, said that extra funding from Welsh Government during the pandemic had helped the council speed-up its work to safeguard rough sleepers.

She said: "Our pledge is that there is a bed for anyone who needs one. Alongside our partners, we are getting the message out to rough sleepers that no matter how vulnerable they may feel, there is a bed available for them.

"Thanks to support from the Welsh Government and strong partnership working between local charities, health, housing associations and private sector providers, anyone found sleeping rough has been and will continue to be offered accommodation and the necessary support to maintain their accommodation

"Since the start of the pandemic we helped more than 400 single homeless people out of temporary accommodation and either into supported housing or a permanent home of their own.

"The extra funding of £370,000 from the council's budget means we can keep people safe from sleeping on the streets and provide help to access more permanent housing solutions."

As part of the council's homelessness strategy, services have been expanded at the Ty Tom Jones temporary supported housing service, which is currently delivered by The Wallich charity and supported by Pobl Housing and the Council.

Cllr Lewis said: "The award-winning Ty Tom Jones has been a real success story over the last year in supporting rough sleepers and single homeless people through the pandemic.

"Our aim is to make it part of a rapid rehousing programme that will help encourage hard-to-reach rough sleepers and single homeless people get the support they need by increasing the health, social, psychological and other wellbeing services on offer there.

"Before the pandemic hit the Council was already working hard to end rough sleeping. The further funding has enabled us to build on the success of what's been achieved with our partners, resulting in a reduction in rough sleeping in Swansea, to the lowest on record in the last 12 months.

"In that time we've learned a lot more about how we can continue to develop our services to directly meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

"With the extra funding we'll be looking to do all we can to continue to prevent people from sleeping rough."

We have built upon new ways of working during our recovery phase from the pandemic through our "Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework 2022 – 2026." Two of the key aims of the re-focus stage of the programme which started in March 2021, were to build upon collaboration with other Councils, organisations, community groups and residents and to improve engagement with our residents and community. The programme includes a community response workstream which aims to build greater collaboration and meaningful engagement with local organisations, community groups and residents by encouraging the continuation of community relationships established pre-Covid. Work to date has included the development of a process for Ward Members to report issues in communities, supporting community events such as Unsung Heroes, a Winter of Well-being for 50+yrs programme, a Summer of Fun programme and developing a Corporate Volunteering Strategy. Although the delivery of the Achieving Better Together programme is still in the early phases, the Council's internal audit team have examined the Achieving Better Together programme and awarded the programme a "high"

level of assurance indicating that “there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the programme objectives and the controls are being consistently applied’, with no recommendations.

**Continue to implement the Poverty Strategy and ensure that tackling poverty is everybody’s business.**

We are continuing to implement our Poverty Strategy and ensure that tackling poverty is everybody’s business. Swansea Council’s Poverty Forum meets on a monthly basis to facilitate cross departmental working and to share information and good practice. The Forum has been chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive with good representation from across the directorates in the Poverty Forum. We have also been working in partnership to reduce and prevent the impact of poverty through the facilitation of the Swansea Poverty Partnership Forum, the Financial Inclusion Steering Group, the Swansea Food Poverty Network and the Swansea Poverty Truth Commission. In addition to the Council’s Tackling Poverty Service, activities to address poverty are delivered by services across the Council such as Free School Meals by Education, the Council Tax Reduction scheme by Resources and Beyond Bricks and Mortar by the Place directorate.

We are currently in the process of reviewing the strategy to take into account the learning from our response to COVID-19 and the current social, economic and environmental context. Draft priorities have been produced and discussed with the Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee, with a view to co-producing a new strategy with all key stakeholders in the near future. A cross section of Councillors have been involved in the development of new policies designed to tackle poverty, such as a Promoting Affordable Credit Policy and a Corporate Debt Policy.

Our approach to ensuring that tackling poverty is everybody’s business has been strengthened by the implementation of the new socio-economic duty and ensuring that socio-economic disadvantage is considered in every strategic decision made by the Council. In addition to rolling out training on the socio-economic duty for both Officers and Councillors, we have also revised our Integrated Impact Assessment process and guidance to ensure the implications for people living in poverty are considered in decision making.

**Targeting resources to maximize access to opportunity and prosperity and focus on utilising data to target support, employability and financial inclusion.**

We are continuing to target support to increase employability and financial inclusion. More people have secured employment in 2021/22 ( $n = 481$ ) compared to previous year through our Swansea Working gateway. Partnership working between Swansea Working, Lifelong Learning, Employability Programmes and partners has continued to offer participants accredited training and qualifications to meet employment opportunities. The number of accredited qualifications achieved by adults with Local Authority support has increased in 2021/22 to 620 compared to 450 in 2020/21; although it has not reached pre-pandemic levels yet. There were 1250 unique learners on accredited and non-accredited Lifelong Learning courses during 2021/22, with 1792 enrolments onto courses, including digital literacy, Essential Skills and Learning for Life Courses (languages, well-being and arts).

**Case study 4: Workways +**

This year as part of the Council’s Economic Recovery Plan and in response to the impact of the pandemic, the Council offered more than 300 paid work placement opportunities to unemployed people through Workways+ and the employment scheme Kickstart. These opportunities were available across a range of roles in local businesses and organisations, with more than 100 positions

based at the Council itself. The Workways+ scheme offered training, paid work experience and volunteering opportunities to unemployed people over 25 to help them improve their lives and find employment. It has already supported more than 1,000 people living in Swansea. Some have benefited from paid work experience opportunities in the Council's Waste department. The UK Government's Kickstart has seen more than 20 new recruits join teams such as parks, building services, waste management and security.

In terms of financial inclusion, our Welfare Rights Team has continued with a Pensions Credit take-up campaign to ensure that eligible pensioners are maximizing their benefit entitlements. Working with Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and other partners, our Welfare Rights Service launched a free phone number and supported more than 113 benefit claims which has resulted in an average weekly increase of £44 per claim for each eligible pensioner. Our Benefits Service have also continued to manage additional grants on behalf of Welsh Government. Over 18,000 applications for winter fuel payments were processed, resulting in payments totalling £2.7m. The team were also responsible for administering Covid Isolation Payments for which over 18,000 applications have been assessed and payments of over £5.6m were issued. The Cost-of-Living payment of £150 for eligible household started to be paid in April 2022 and the Unpaid Carers payment from May 2022.

**Support the establishment of a Poverty Truth Commission to bring together key decision makers with people who have direct lived experience of poverty to work together to bring about change.**

We have continued to work with partners to facilitate the development of a Swansea Poverty Truth Commission (PTC). The PTC places people with lived experience of poverty at the heart of decision making and policy development. The key principles of the PTC are based on learning from post-apartheid peace building in South Africa and aims to create a safe space for people with lived experience of poverty to tell their stories and build relationships with each other and key decision makers in the local area. Community Commissioners (people with lived experience of poverty) have equal status to Civic and Business Commissioners in terms of determining the focus and priorities for the PTC. Swansea's PTC is hosted by Swansea CVS and supported by two facilitators. Poverty Truth Commissions usually have a life span of between 18 months to 2 years.

Although progress with the development of Swansea's PTC has been hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, work to develop the PTC has continued virtually on-line and face-to-face when regulations have allowed. All Community Commissioners have been recruited and a launch event is planned for 2022. Although it is too early to evaluate the outcomes from Swansea's PTC, the model used in Swansea has been based on similar models of others PTCS across the UK. Evaluations conducted by other PTCs have demonstrated that they have helped bring about change for individuals, organisations and at a policy level.

**Work with our Health partners to ensure that, through our Early Years Strategy, children in their early years and at Foundation Phase achieve their expected language, emotional, social and cognitive development and are ready for learning and for school.**

We have continued to work with our Health partners to ensure that children in their early years and at Foundation Phase achieve their potential. During 2021/22, work has included the development of a co-ordinated Early Years Support System, improved access to Speech, Language and Communication Support and Early Years workforce with training to support a greater understanding of Physical Literacy for Pre School training, along with Early Help Hubs, ensuring early, timely and effective identification and interventions for children in their early years.

Data from our Flying Start programme shows that the proportion of children performing at their expected age in Personal and Social Development increased from 40% on entry to the programme to 72% on exit from the programme. Similarly, in Language and Communication, the proportion of children performing at their age expected outcome at entry to the programme increased from 22% to 51% on exit from the programme. In Mathematical Development, there was a 29% increase in the proportion of children performing at their expected age on exit from the programme compared to entry into the programme and a 20% increase in the proportion of children reaching the expected milestones in Physical development on exit from the programme, compared to entry into the programme.

Early years is one of four local well-being objectives of Swansea's public Services Board. The long term objective is to ensure that children have the best start in life and develop to their potential. This year we have worked with our partners to build upon our Early Years Integration Transformation – Pathfinder programme and have conducted a service mapping exercise across the domains of Childcare, Play, Family Support, Education and Health and conducted a Vanguard Systems review with a view to improving the integration and effectiveness of services. We have continued to develop our multi-agency Jig-so project (support for families and babies in the first 1001 days), breast feeding initiatives and access to speech, language and communications support. We have also reshaped family support services and developed Early Years Early Help Hubs in five community hubs across Swansea. The Early Years Help hubs aim to provide better preventative support for families by providing a single point of contact and a "seamless journey" for families.

The Flying Start programme, component projects, models and tools have been rigorously tested and evaluated nationally since its inception and has been demonstrated to be an effective programme. Local delivery has also been evaluated and has also been demonstrated to be effective, which is highlighted by annual performance data and outcomes from the programme. Although other early years work has not been subject to the same level of evaluation as Flying Start, many of the new approaches adopted such as Jig-so, have been informed by the development of other proven models and approaches. As a whole, our work for children in their early years and their families, has embedded a culture of self-assessment and improvement as demonstrated by our Vanguard systems reviews and continual review of feedback from service users and quality assurance processes.

### **Ensure that young people are able to access employment, education or training after reaching 16 years of age.**

During 2021, Swansea's NEET Prevention Partnership (SNPP) was established under the auspices of Swansea's Skill Partnership. The purpose of the NEET Partnership is to provide coherence, coordination and clarity to the education, employment and training offer to young people. The partnership has focused on supporting prevention and early intervention. This year, work has centred on the revision of a vulnerability assessment profile and targeted work with schools to support vulnerable learners during their transition from school.

This year we have continued to identify those young people who were most at risk of becoming NEET (not in employment, education or training) and provide them (and their families) through the Cynnydd project with the personal support they require to remain engaged with education, employment and training. The proportion of school leavers who were NEET in 2021/22 was 1.6% representing a small increase from 1.5% in the previous year.

### Case study 5: Kickstart

The Kickstart scheme is a £2 billion UK wide initiative designed to create new 6-month job placements for young people, aged 16-24 who were on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. Young people are paid the relevant National Minimum Wage for up to 25 hours a week and are provided with on-the-job training and experience, with a view to securing employment following the end of the placement. From the start of the scheme up until December 2022 the programme has provided more than 60 placements for young people within the Council and more than 250 placements with other employers across the Swansea area.

Following the end of Kick-start funding, the Council made a successful bid to the UK Government Community Renewal Fund. The pilot Pathways to Work project has been designed to provide pre-engagement support, employability support, skills support and opportunities to develop digital skills. The project aims to provide a more flexible approach to employability than pre-cursor programmes and involves 6 delivery partners including the YMCA, Barnardos, Gower College Swansea, Swansea Council for Voluntary Services (SCVS) and Techno-camps. It is anticipated that the project will develop bespoke pathways including digital pathways into employment. The project has been designed to test how provision through partnerships could be shaped, prior to the announcement by the UK Government in the next few months in relation to funding for such provision from the new Shared Prosperity Fund.

### **Help to address the impacts of Welfare reform, such as supporting people to claim the full benefits they are entitled to so that they are able to maximise their income and promote access to affordable credit.**

Our Welfare Rights Team has continued to provide advice and support on a range of welfare benefits, providing an advice line, holding joint appointments for complex casework and appeal representation. The amount of welfare benefits secured for Swansea residents in 2021/22 was £1,139, 249m. This represents a 24% decrease compared to the previous year owing to the pandemic and changes to the Benefits System. Although there was a decrease in the amount of welfare benefits secured in 2021/22, research into the multiplier effect suggests that every £1 increase in welfare benefit income, is worth £5 to the local economy. Therefore, the amount of welfare benefits secured for Swansea residents in 2021/22 represented £5,696,245m to the local economy.

During the pandemic, the Welfare Rights Advice Line was expanded to five days per week for 157 days. The Welfare Rights Team also produced 14 benefits updates for staff and partner organisations outlining benefit changes; including special updates relating to specific benefit changes. During 2021/22 the team responded to 817 benefit enquiries. Although there was a reduction in the number of appeals at tribunal owing to the pandemic compared to the previous year, the Team still provided 75 appointments for complex cases and represented 47 people at appeal with a 91% success rate. They also trained 231 support workers including 176 support workers on disability benefits and Personal Independence Payments and supported residents to address over £77k of personal debt.

During 2021/22, the Council's Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee developed a Promoting Affordable Credit Policy designed to promote awareness of affordable credit options and warn people against the risks of high interest lenders. Work is ongoing in relation to the development of a Corporate Personal Debt Recovery Policy, which aims to encourage people to



engage with the Council at an early stage in relation to debts and ensure that it treats all people with personal debts owing to the Council in a fair and consistent manner.

**Support individuals to overcome their barriers to employment through co-ordinated person-centred employability support.**

We have continued to support individuals to overcome barriers to employment by providing individually tailored employability support. Swansea Working is a single gateway which co-ordinates employability across associated employability support programmes including Communities for Work, Communities for Work Plus, Workways STU, Workways Plus and Cam Nesa. Support provided includes an initial triage and assessment, the development of a personal action plan, intensive mentoring, support to overcome barriers e.g. confidence building, signposting to training and qualifications, volunteering placements, paid work opportunities, support with job searching and access to online employability events and workshops

Since 2017, 2,504 people have been supported by Communities for Work / Plus, 994 people have been supported into work through Communities for Work / Plus, 1,186 people have been supported by Workways, 433 people have been supported into work over 16hrs through Workways and since April 2018, 6,842 people have been supported through Swansea Working. During 2021/22, the number of people participating in Employability Support increased to 481, compared to 453 in the previous year.

Swansea Working and Communities For Work have also worked in partnership to deliver bespoke initiatives with and for local employers, care leavers and prison leavers resulting in sustainable employment. They have also provided employability clients with welfare rights and financial inclusion advice and support in preparation for employment.

**Case study 6: two new work schemes**

Cabinet have approved two new work schemes targeted at graduates and unemployed people. The two schemes worth a combined £1.1m will provide training and work placements at Swansea Council for graduates and unemployed people. The schemes will be funded by the Council's Economic Recovery Fund of £25m, which aims to help the city's residents, businesses and communities, recover from the economic impact of the pandemic. Initially running for the next two years, the £500,000 graduate place training project will fund recruitment into a variety of training schemes, leading to professional qualifications and potential full-time employment in areas like strategic planning, regeneration and heritage, waste strategy, public health, highways and transportation, culture and tourism, and asset management. A £600,000 scheme running until 2024 is also planned to create a rolling programme of six-month employment placements for the unemployed and economically inactive people of all ages. Fifty placements are planned, enabling those who take part not just to earn an income but also to benefit from new skills and new work experience.

**Provide art, culture and heritage opportunities in order to boost skills, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration.**

We have continued to support and provide a broad range of opportunities in art, culture and heritage opportunities in order to boost skills, confidence and self-esteem. Our offer has been sustained through strong partnerships and a mixed economy of varying operating models, whereby Council funded facilities have been complemented by an array of privately owned and operated



facilities, alongside community-run and self-managed assets. The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on our offer; in March 2020 all the cultural venues, leisure buildings and free to access recreational and play areas as well as community buildings were closed and many staff were re-deployed into front line crisis roles. Although our offer was re-focused during the pandemic and was provided on-line and in person when safe to do so, the pandemic has had a significant impact on the sector. Our new cultural strategy aims to reduce the widening inequalities between different groups exacerbated by the pandemic.

In addition to our universal offer, we have delivered a number of targeted services. Our Passport to Leisure (PTL) scheme is available to those who qualify for means-tested benefits along with families in the care system, such as foster families, allowing for concessionary rates at a range of cultural and sporting venues. During 2021/22 there were 1,255 active PTL cards. The HYNT card is a Wales-wide scheme which allow disabled persons the opportunity to take a carer with them, free of charge, when attending events. Although the scheme is administered by CREU Cymru, the financial cost of using the card in our venues and facilities, is funded by the Council. A total of 2,451 HYNT cards have been issued in Swansea and since 2017; over 10,000 HYNT tickets have been utilised at the Grand Theatre and Brangwyn Hall at a cost of over £250,000.

During 2021/22 we have continued to deliver Fusion - a Welsh Government supported programme - designed to tackle poverty through better understanding of our deprived communities by tackling barriers to engagement in order to support people to improve their own wellbeing whilst gaining skills for life and employment. The programme in Swansea is coordinated through a networking partnership called the Swansea Creative Learning Partnership and is regularly cited as an example of best practice. Activities have included support to access volunteering, work experience, improving of digital skills, support for children in the early years, family learning and approaches to learning and wellbeing. A snap-shot of participation prior to the onset of pandemic (March 2020) showed that over 25,000 people had participated in the programme including unemployed people, refugee and asylum seekers and a range of other people with protected characteristics.

We have continued to implement our Diversity pledge, which includes all people with protected characteristics, as well as Welsh speakers and those living in poverty. We have built upon the Council's motion to express solidarity with Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Swansea, by reviewing Swansea's street names, places and statues and committed to recognising the contribution made to civic life by a greater diversity of Swansea's past residents.

#### Case Study 7: a Blue Plaque for Jessie Donaldson an Anti-slavery campaigner

Jessie Donaldson an Anti-slavery campaigner who bravely fought slavery in America around 170 years ago has been honoured by her home city of Swansea. After moving from Swansea to America, she provided sanctuary for slaves escaping from the southern US states to reach freedom in the north. Jessie emigrated to Cincinnati in her 50s and helped fleeing slaves during the American Civil War. She ran a safe house for fleeing slaves which was part of the famous Underground Railroad escape network. In subsequent years choirs and bands of freed slaves visited Swansea to perform abolitionist campaign songs, spirituals and gospel music.

A blue plaque has been installed by Swansea Council outside the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's (UWTSD) Dynevor building in the city centre to celebrate the actions of the campaigner.

We have also continued to support the development of a Digital and Cultural Hub at Swansea's Grand Theatre, which includes 24 ethnic minority organisations and aims to ensure a fair and equal cultural programming for our communities. In 2021 Swansea Council became a partner in The World

Reimagined, a UK-wide art education project working to transform our understanding of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and its impact on all of us to help us make racial justice a reality. The project aims to support communities explore a range of themes and cultural influences to unite participants and audiences to positively understand our cultural influences, and celebrate the present and future opportunities for us all.

Other examples of targeted work include work undertaken by the Dylan Thomas Centre in partnership with West Glamorgan People First, to co-produce projects and interpretation and develop sensory bags. The Dylan Thomas Centre has also worked with the National Autistic Trust to deliver new accredited Museums qualification for autistic people. The Council regularly works with Ysgol Pen-y-Bryn on projects, including World Book Day, development of materials for the New Curriculum for Wales, and film and animation projects.

From its re-opening in May 2021, the Glynn Vivian Art Gallery (GVAG) has displayed a diverse range of exhibitions and programmes from Highlights including an exhibition programmed in partnership with Swansea Pride and participants from Swansea City of Sanctuary to celebrate Swansea 10th anniversary as a City of Sanctuary. In 2021, the GVAG became the first Gallery in the UK to be awarded Art Gallery of Sanctuary for our work with Refugees and people seeking asylum. During 2021/22, the GVAG continued its work with targeted groups for visually impaired people, children and young people not in formal education and older isolated adults in addition to the re-starting of weekend workshops. Swansea Museum and our libraries have also facilitated activities such as videos production working with young carers and young people with disabilities as part of our Winter of Well-being event and provided venues for groups to meet again.

Our Sport and Health service have continued to work with partners to deliver sport and physical activity projects across the City and County of Swansea and support the development of positive social interaction and community cohesion through formal and informal adult participation in sport. Working with partners such as Sport Wales, Disability Sport Wales, Public Health Wales and Street Games we have continued to target groups with low levels of participation such as young women, Disabled people and people from Black and Minority Ethnic groups. We have also continued to work in partnership to develop capacity within local communities and develop infrastructure, support volunteering and share resources. During the summer of 2021, our school holiday programmes was expanded to cover activities for 16-25 year olds and older adults as well as the provision of whole family participation activities, which was piloted pre-Covid via programmes such as Us Girls, Parklives and Streetgames. During 2021 our summer school holiday programme welcomed over 1400 users, to over 150 sessions across 21 different venues, including leisure centres, parks, beaches, rivers and canals.

#### Case study 8: new children's play areas

During 2021 we have invested around £5m in a new generation of children's play areas in over 30 different communities and popular areas across the City and County of Swansea. The investment has been made by Swansea Council with support for funding from Ward Members, funding from community groups and other organisations, section 106 agreements with developers and the Welsh Government through Play Sufficiency grants. The scheme included the installation of new facilities and the upgrading and refurbishment of existing facilities. The features of each play area vary and have been designed in consultation with local children and their families. Example of new equipment include ziplines, mini trampolines, climbing frames, multi-play units for younger and older children, a range of swings, roundabouts, springers and play panels. Dedicated equipment for disabled children has also been introduced.

The quality of our cultural, arts, heritage, leisure and sports offer is generally good and demonstrated by our achievement of various accreditation, quality marks and national awards. For example, we are one of the leading Councils in Wales in achieving 18 Green Flag awards for our parks and 4 Blue Flag awards for our beaches. Our two Archives and all of our Museums and Art Galleries have achieved the UK Accreditation Standard. In 2020, the Dylan Thomas Exhibition's Literature and Trauma initiative won a prize in the Museums Association's Museums Change Lives award and Swansea Museum was included in a report by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales as one of the museums in Wales excelling at collecting stories from their communities. Our Us Girls project designed to increase and sustain young women's participation in sport and physical activity in most disadvantaged communities also won the Engaging Women and Girls Award at the National StreetGames Awards in 2020. The effectiveness of our offer is also demonstrated by good levels of attendance, participation and visits.

**Invest to improve housing and build more energy efficient Council homes and support the building of affordable housing to help meet housing need, reduce fuel bills, regenerate estates and bring wider economic and employment benefits.**

Demand for social housing remains high and there is insufficient supply to fulfil the needs of all households on the waiting list. A snap-shot of the Council's waiting list in September 2021, showed that there were 4,639 households on the waiting list (26% were households who were homeless or threatened with homelessness, 43% had other, less severe forms of housing need and 31% were council tenants who have applied for a transfer to another property/area). The private rented sector is increasingly unaffordable for people on low incomes and the Local Housing Allowance often does not meet the cost of private renting for many households.

The Council, in conjunction with its Registered Social Landlord (RSL) partners has set an ambitious target to develop 5,000 units of new affordable housing in Swansea over a 10-year period (1,000 to be delivered by the Council through direct building programme, 4,000 to be delivered by Housing Associations). We have continued with our Council Housing Development Programme and building new Council homes, with a commitment to building energy efficient, zero carbon homes and to Lifetime Homes Standards to ensure they are suitable for the long terms needs of tenants.

During 2021/22, a total of 60 additional affordable housing units were delivered by the Local Authority (an increase from 44 in the previous year) and 129 additional affordable housing units were delivered by Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) (a decrease from 203 in the previous year). The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted upon the development of new affordable homes and the pace of delivery has been slowed by challenges in the construction supply chain and a shortage of materials and labour.

The Welsh Housing Quality Standard - which is the statutory standard for all social housing in Wales - currently requires all social housing to achieve a Standard Assessment profile (SAP) rating of 65 or above. Due to investment to improve the thermal efficiency and insulation of council properties, 100% of properties reached the average SAP rating of 69 (band C). There is a lack of robust information about house conditions in the private rented / owner occupied sector. However an estimate from data drawn from Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between 2008-2021 suggests that there is a relatively low proportion of homes in the private rented/owner occupied sector with a SAP rating of (band C) or above (estimated at only 40% of private rented/owner occupied properties reaching this rating).

**Prevent homelessness and support people to maintain their tenancies to help provide stability and security for families and communities by implementing the Council's Homelessness Strategy 2018-22.**

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic there has been a reduction in the number of people sleeping rough in Swansea to lowest levels ever recorded, as a result of Welsh Government instructions to ensure all people who required it were provided with temporary accommodation during the pandemic. There was good partnership working between our Homelessness service, support Services, and accommodation providers which was demonstrated by the effective homelessness and housing support response to the pandemic, such as the development of Ty Tom Jones.

Around 2,500 homelessness applications are made in the City and County of Swansea each year. Where homelessness cannot be prevented, temporary accommodation is provided. The Council has its own temporary accommodation suitable for families and bed & breakfast (B&B) accommodation is only used as a last resort when there are no other options available. In the last five years, the annual number of families in temporary accommodation in Swansea has fluctuated between 22 and 41. Whilst the number of families in temporary accommodation fell during 2020/21, the number has increased in the first two quarters of 2021/22.

We have continued to implement our Homelessness Strategy 2018-22 and have adopted a new approach to combine strategic planning for homelessness with the Housing Support Grant Programme and to produce a new strategy for 2022-2026. We have received increased funding provided by Welsh Government to sustain additional homelessness services and new approaches to service delivery developed during the pandemic, through an uplift in Housing Support Grant allocated to Swansea of £4m. We are undertaking a large-scale systems thinking review of all Temporary Supported Accommodation Projects, which will identify how the sector and homelessness services in Swansea will transition to a Rapid Rehousing approach over the next 5 years, i.e. minimising time spent in temporary accommodation before moving on to permanent accommodation.

**Explore creating our own energy venture to provide low-cost energy to homes helping to tackle high domestic fuel bills and fuel poverty. Support tackling climate change and help eradicate fuel poverty and boost economic development through the ARBED scheme and energy efficiency measures in social housing.**

Although we have fully explored establishing an energy company to manage the new energy generating facilities, volatility within energy market coupled with price caps has made the option financially unviable. Other previous public sector energy companies have now ceased trading and been sold to private companies and the option is unviable for the foreseeable future. However we have progressed the concept and continued to explore this work through a revised proposal to develop a Tidal Bay Lagoon in the area. Pre-planning discussions have commenced on the Blue Eden project. Unlike the previous Tidal Lagoon concept, the project will not require public subsidy and will now include new additional features such as Housing, a Battery factory, an Oceanic and Climate Change Research centre, a Data centre and a Solar farm. The Blue Eden project is being led by Bridgend-based DST Innovations and their business partners from the private sector. It is anticipated that project will be delivered in three phases over 12 years and will create more than 2,500 permanent jobs and support a further 16,000 jobs across Wales and the UK, whilst creating additional jobs during its construction.

During 2021/22, we are continuing to address fuel poverty through the distribution of our fuel vouchers with partners, the construction of new energy efficient Council homes, retrofitting our

existing properties and ensuring all Council homes meet the band C energy efficiency rating. We have also continued to support community-owned renewable energy schemes to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and community buildings and have adopted of a Climate Change Charter as part of a series of measures working towards becoming carbon neutral.

### **Continue to implement the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan to promote cohesive and inclusive communities in Swansea.**

During 2021/22, our Community Cohesion team has focused on the social effects of Brexit, as well as the broader community cohesion agenda. A key element of work has included engaging with individuals and communities to ensure maximum uptake of the European Union Settlement Scheme (EUSS). More than 9,000 EU citizens in Swansea have been supported to apply to the EU settlement scheme. Alongside community and stakeholder engagement, work has continued on tension monitoring within local communities, which have been reported via the weekly tension monitoring system. Regular engagement has been held with key stakeholders to share intelligence and concerns from, for example, students, BAME residents and refugees, and local Faith group leaders. Working with our partners, we are continued to monitor and respond to incidents of hate crime through the Hate Crime Stakeholder Group and the Safer Swansea Partnership.

During 2021/22 we have delivered a number of training programmes to staff and key stakeholders to understand the early signs of far-right influence and reporting mechanisms. Around a 100 members of staff completed the Hate Crime e-learning course and 44 people attended Victim Support virtual training arranged by Council in this period. We have continued to engage with relevant networks to address tensions / hot spots and raised awareness of Hate Crime by supporting the delivery of Hate Crime Awareness Week and a Hate Crime awareness programme in our schools in Swansea. Working with partners, we have also supported innovative campaigns to challenge myths and misconceptions, promote positive messages, celebrate diversity, and promote a sense of belonging including Eid in the Park, School Swap project, Interfaith week, Holocaust Memorial Day, Diwali, LGBT+ month, Windrush, Refugee week and Black History month. We have raised awareness and supported the reporting of anti-slavery / human trafficking in Swansea by establishing an Anti-Slavery MARAC to support the victims of human trafficking. We have continued to support our more vulnerable communities through our "Tell Me More" campaign which is designed to provide accurate and up to date information about the COVID-19 pandemic.

### 3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?

Although good progress has made in relation to tackling poverty, there are a number of potential areas for improvement. Firstly:

- the Council's Scrutiny Programme Committee in November 2021 recommended that the Council should clarify its aims and objectives in relation to tackling poverty and improve the ways in which it monitored and measured the outcomes of work.

Clarifying the Council's role and functions in relation to tackling poverty and the delivery of effective services to those people who need them most, perhaps takes on greater significance within the current economic situation and the cost of living crisis and the likelihood of increased future demand for support. Although the causes of poverty and the impact of poverty is multi-faceted, more work is needed to *demonstrate* the difference made in terms of outcomes and that services are reaching those most in need.

- Secondly, many of the Council’s activities to tackle poverty are reliant on grant funding, predominately from the Welsh Government. If grants cease, then the Council will not be able to deliver the same range of services effectively. A number initiatives are still funded by EU funds including the Communities for Work Employability programme of over £732,000 per annum which is due to come to an end in 2023. In addition to an over reliance on grant funding, greater flexibility is also required in relation to using funding in a way which best meets local needs in a sustainable way.

Other areas for improvement include the need to:

- complete the revision of the Council’s Tackling Poverty Strategy, complete and implement the Review of Employability and the Review of Financial Inclusion and to develop and implement the Corporate Volunteering Policy. Other areas identified for improvement by the Tackling Poverty Service include reviewing food poverty and community cooking and growing activities, reviewing employment support and access to Lifelong learning, developing evidence based outcome models for projects and developing a quality / satisfaction framework for services.

#### 4. Conclusion - the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

A review of the evidence in relation to whether the Council is exercising its functions effectively in relation to its Tackling Poverty priority suggests that it is owning its ambition.

<i>Well-being Objectives</i>	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Tackling Poverty</i>				x	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:

#### *Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

Overall, the evidence demonstrates that the Council has made good progress in terms of taking actions to tackle poverty. There are a number of long established and well attended forums and groups working across the Council and in the local area with external partners from the statutory and Third sectors. The Council and its partners have also worked in partnership to harness and support community action. Overall, the Council has made good progress in terms of ensuring that poverty is seen as “everybody’s business”.

The evidence also shows that a large number of children in their early years and their families have benefitted from early intervention and co-ordinated support to reach age appropriate outcomes and milestones. The Council’s approach to employability has also provided a single coherent gateway to provide an individually tailored person centred approach to training, readiness for employment and

securing stable employment. Many residents have also benefitted from support to ensure that they realise their maximum benefit entitlement. The Council and its partners have worked in quick and innovative ways to secure grants and administer funds to support groups and people in crisis from the immediate impact of poverty such as food poverty and longer term consequences.

Wider support such as Social Housing (including energy efficiency measures) and our cultural and leisure offer and innovative use of grants and working with the Third Sector has also been good. *Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

The Council is working to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals when meeting its well-being objective to tackle poverty:

- *A Prosperous Wales* – maximizing benefit take up and entitlement and providing a single gateway to employment support.
- *A Resilient Wales* – building more energy efficient Council homes and affordable housing to meet housing need, reduce fuel bills, regenerate estates and bring wide environmental, economic and employment benefits.
- *A Healthier Wales* – providing free or low cost art, cultural and heritage events at targeted communities through a wide range of talks, workshops and activities aiming to address health and wellbeing.
- *A more Equal Wales* – creating employment and training opportunities for the long-term unemployed and economically inactive through community benefit clauses in Council contracts.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – implementing the Community Cohesion Delivery Plan to promote cohesive and inclusive communities in Swansea.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – helping Swansea's poorest communities tackle poverty by accessing arts, culture and heritage in order to boost skills, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration.
- *A globally responsible Wales* – measures contributing to tackling climate change including energy efficiency measures in housing and building more energy efficient Council housing.

*Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The council is working sustainably in line with the following five ways of working when meeting its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm:

- *Addressing long-term challenges.* Our work with children in their early years and their parents and carers, is based on approach which aims to improve the long term outcomes for children and young people and to ensure they fulfil their potential in the future. We have also been working to address the long-term challenges of reducing Swansea's carbon footprint by ensuring that new Council Homes are constructed to the Swansea Standard and we have been retrofitting existing home with energy efficient measures. We have also been working to help people secure employment and a decent standard of living in the long term by helping people overcome barriers to employment and getting people back into work.
- *Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse.* We are continuing to prevent homeless at an early stage by encouraging residents to engage with our Tenancy support team at an early stage and by using a psychologically informed approach to deal with rent arrears and making innovative use of the Prevention fund to support tenants in the privately rented sector. We are also working to help prevent high fuel bills and the 'poverty premium' by building energy efficient Council homes and retrofitting existing homes.

- *Integration / joining things up and avoiding duplication.* Our single gateway approach to employability support integrates a number of different funding streams and programmes, providing single and clear pathways to training, employment and other forms of support. Our work with children in their early years and their parents and careers is designed to provide an integrated and holistic package of support to address a range of educational, health, social and developmental needs.
- *Involving people.* Our Poverty Truth Commission places people with lived experience of poverty at the heart of policy development and the re-configuration of services. They are equal to the Civic Commissioners in terms of determining the areas of focus and priorities. We are also working co-productively to review and develop our Tackling Poverty strategy.
- *Working in partnership* and collaborating with other organisations. Working in partnerships is at the very centre of our approach to tackle poverty recognising that reducing poverty is “everybody’s business. We are working across all departments within the Council and a range of external partners to mitigate the causes and impact of poverty.



## **Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity**

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what does success look like?

- We shall seek across the range of the Council's responsibilities, as appropriate, to maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, and improve our knowledge and understanding of our natural environment, thus benefiting our health and well-being.
- Swansea is one of the most ecologically rich and diverse counties in the UK. Its unique variety of habitats and species and wonderful range of parks, greenspaces, nature reserves, beaches and landscapes need to be maintained, enhanced and sustainably managed for the benefit of everyone now and into the future.
- Our future survival and quality of life is dependent on a healthy resilient natural environment and the multiple benefits it provides to society.
- Our natural environment and biodiversity is under threat and in decline due to unsustainable human activities. Habitats and species are being lost at an alarming and unsustainable rate.
- We urgently need to tackle climate change by reducing our use of carbon and by maintaining and enhancing resilient ecosystems and a strong green infrastructure network to help us mitigate for and adapt to the pressures of climate change.
- A Climate Emergency has been declared by Swansea Council formally recognising the need for action and reporting on progress via this well-being objective.
- We have a legal duty under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and under the Well Being of future Generations Act 2015 (Resilient Wales goal) to protect and enhance biodiversity and maintain resilient ecosystems, and to report our progress to Welsh Government.
- Evidence shows that contact with nature has significant benefits for people's physical and mental health; this has been borne out by anecdotal evidence emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic
- Our future prosperity and well-being is dependent on a healthy resilient natural environment.
- We need to work with nature to improve the quality of our air, water and soils.
- We want everyone to understand and appreciate the unique value and fragility of Swansea's outstanding natural environment and to play their part in looking after and enhancing it.
- Our ambition is for everyone in Swansea to have access to and to benefit from an ecologically diverse, attractive, well managed and resilient natural environment.
- We want to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity so that its contribution to Swansea's economic and social well-being is not lost or reduced.
- We aim to create a greener more sustainable, ecologically diverse and resilient county, where its unique natural environment is recognised as one of its most valued and distinctive assets.
- We have a moral responsibility to look after biodiversity for its own intrinsic value.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Develop, adopt and implement a Corporate Biodiversity (Section 6) Action Plan.**

This Plan will be reviewed in line with Welsh Government's 3-year reporting cycle during 2022. At the heart of this progress was embedding the natural environment and biodiversity into the Public Service Boards (PSB's) Swansea Well-Being Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan. In addition, the Natural Environment Scrutiny Inquiry, and its recommendations, has had a significant impact in terms of raising awareness of the Duty and highlighting areas for improvement.

Through the Swansea Well-Being Plan's 'Working With Nature' objective, delivery by key stakeholders and partnership working, much work is already being done: the Council has included a priority for nature recovery in its Corporate Plan and has established a Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board to ensure that both issues are fully considered across all Service areas. Swansea's Local Nature Partnership (LNP) is active and well-placed with over 97 members from local wildlife and other organisations wishing to contribute to nature recovery, and together are preparing a local Nature Recovery Action Plan.

As Outlined in the Cabinet Action Plan: Scrutiny Inquiry into the Natural Environment, progress on meeting the corporate biodiversity objective actions are monitored and reported on a regular basis by means of the establishment of a Corporate Biodiversity Working Group (now formulated as the Climate Change and Nature Recovery Programme Board). This Group effectively supports and encourages all Service Areas to take ownership of Section 6 duties. This Group comprises representatives from all relevant service areas and is chaired at a senior level. Under the new business planning and reporting regime, all Service Areas will be required to report on progress made and planned future actions to meet the new Corporate priority for the Natural Environment and biodiversity.

### **Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)**

This guidance which was adopted by the Council in 2021, provides clarity on the interpretation of Local Development Plan policies in order to ensure development within Swansea maintains and enhances the County's biodiversity and delivers long term ecosystem resilience. This aligns with the Council's duties under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the Resilient Wales Goal of the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015, and is consistent with National Development Plan (Future Wales) Policy.

It guides those submitting planning applications on how to consider biodiversity at each stage of the development management process. It provides the framework to demonstrate that proposals have responded to a robust ecological understanding of a site, and that appropriate ecological mitigation, compensation, enhancement and aftercare will be provided. The SPG recognises that applicants should provide measures in relation to biodiversity and ecosystem resilience that are proportionate to the scale of the development proposed.

The Council's Nature Conservation Team are a consultee in the planning application process and will provide advice to the Development Management Team in relation to biodiversity matters.

### **Work with partners to develop and deliver a Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for Swansea.**

Working in collaboration, Swansea Council's Natural Environment Section and Natural Resources Wales employed Green Infrastructure Consultancy (a world leading expert in the GI industry) to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy, *Swansea Central Area: Regenerating Our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife*. It has since been used to help deliver public realm enhancement schemes within the central area such as green roofs and walls on buildings and other structures.

This strategy sets out a vision for the central area of Swansea to be much greener and more biodiverse, creating green spaces and using a combination of street-level features such as street trees and rain gardens as well as vegetation on buildings, including green roofs and green walls. The intention is to double the amount of GI (with the exception of open water) within 10 years. Success will be measured via a number of performance indicators, which will work towards targets to double (from 13% to 26%) GI by 2030 and to increase tree canopy cover to 20-25% by 2044. The strategy

includes a Green Space Factor tool which is a simple user tool designed to guide improvements to the quality and functionality of green spaces. The strategy was adopted in February 2021. An Action Plan is in development to support the delivery of the strategy and address the key themes which came out of the engagement work: 1) governance and leadership, 2) skills and knowledge development, and 3) maintenance.

Swansea Council and Natural Resources Wales have also started engaging on the development of a county wide strategy. This document will follow a similar developmental path as the Swansea Central Area strategy focusing on taking a strategic approach to multifunctional GI across the county. Supported by national legislation, local policy and guidance skills and knowledge, the aim is to ensure GI is an embedded guiding principle in all development and enhancement work in Swansea.

Some local examples of urban green infrastructure projects influenced by the Strategy include:

Swansea Environment Centre - An extensive green roof was installed in at the Environment Centre in March 2021 by The Urban Greening Company, funded by a Welsh Government Local Places for Nature grant. The green roof was planted and sown with 48 locally grown native wildflowers by Celtic Wildflowers and Environment Centre staff.

Coastal Offices High Street - A semi-intensive green roof was installed by The Urban Greening Company on the Coastal Office building High Street in March 2021, funded by the Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Green Infrastructure Grant. Designed to bring coastal habitat into the city the green roof is a really good example of creating a city centre space for people and nature.

Coastal Housing, Potter's Wheel: Designed and installed by Scotscape, using Welsh Government's Transforming Towns Green Infrastructure Grant. The green wall was part of the refurbishment of 85-86 the Kingsway. The planting and breathable soil pouches filter particulates and vegetation provides food and shelter for birds and insects along with amenity value.

Coastal Park: Copr Bay's 1.1 acre coastal park is an intensive green roof, currently Wales largest living roof, including a green façade living wall running along the Oystermouth Road side of the new car park. The living wall provides year-round colour and amenity value, offers shelter and food for birds and insects, absorbs pollution and surface water run off providing summer cooling.

### **Develop and adopt a Council tree policy.**

A suite of tree policies/protocols have been adopted during 2021/22 including: Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows Supplementary Planning Guidance, the Swansea Tree Replacement Standard, Tree Planting Guidance and a Management Strategy for trees on Council owned land.

The aims of the Swansea Council Tree Management Strategy 2021 in relation to Council owned land are to:

- Ensure risks from and to trees are adequately managed.
- Ensure the Council meets its biodiversity duties in respect of trees.
- Conserve trees of value.
- Maintain and expand tree canopy cover.

As at 2021, around 43,000 individual trees in Council ownership had been surveyed with more than 1439 woodlands and tree groupings plotted and surveyed containing an estimated 100k additional trees. However, significant areas of Council land ownership still remain to be surveyed.

**Begin to map existing Green Infrastructure assets and ecosystem service provision, and identify areas, which provide the best opportunities for habitat enhancement/connectivity and improved recreational access with associated health and wellbeing benefits.**

South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBReC) was commissioned in September 2021 by Swansea Council (specifically the Nature Conservation and Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Teams) to undertake a project to produce a map of ecosystem resilience for the Swansea Council area.

A key potential use of the mapped outputs is to identify locations where work could be undertaken to increase ecological resilience, through targeted works to restore or create habitats in locations which currently exhibit lower ecological resilience. Such work could form a very important component of building a "Nature Recovery Network" in the Swansea area and could be supported and directed through the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan.

**Undertake a preliminary biodiversity audit of Council owned land and where possible manage our corporate assets for the benefit of biodiversity and natural resources.**

A pilot project for improved management of corporate assets for the benefit of biodiversity and natural resources has considered all More Homes Council housing sites and advised on ecological surveys to be undertaken. Swift bricks (bricks that provide a mechanism for building nesting accommodation for swifts into brickwork) have been installed and will continue to be installed on all new More Homes properties.

Following on from the first Passivhaus pilot at Colliers way, the second phase of the More Homes project has been completed at Parc Y Helyg, and Colliers Way Phase 2. As part of this phase, 34 new homes are designed as 'Homes as Power Stations' using funds from a £1.5m Innovative Housing Programme grant from the Welsh Government. The homes have innovative features such as solar panels and battery-powered energy, as well as the inclusion of swift bricks to support biodiversity.

Two grant funded Community Greenspace and Nature officers have been appointed to begin the process of mapping existing biodiversity and green infrastructure assets within each ward and identifying opportunities for enhancement works with associated health and wellbeing benefits.

**Work with partners to develop and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity and improve ecological connectivity.**

To support working with partners to develop and implement opportunities to enhance biodiversity, four permanent and three temporary grant funded posts have been created within the Council's Nature Conservation Team during 2021/22, including a Local Nature Partnership Officer, a Biodiversity (Section 6) Officer, a Woodland Officer, a Planning Ecologist, two Communities and Nature Project Officers and a Volunteer Co-ordinator. In addition over £1million of grant funding was secured by the Nature Conservation Team for delivering biodiversity and Green Infrastructure projects in 2021/22, with further bids worth £1.5 million submitted for 2022/23. Work has commenced on the preparation of a Local Nature Recovery Action Plan and a Section 6 Plan

As outlined in the Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Guidance, the Local Development Plan (LDP) has been informed by an assessment of ecological connectivity across the whole of the County. As well as mapping the existing ecological connectivity network in Swansea, this assessment also identifies locations where ecological connectivity has the potential to be enhanced.

#### Case Study 1: Plantasia

The Council has used funding from the Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature Fund to boost the biodiversity in this long thin wetland in Parc Tawe. Over 30 species of wildflowers were planted in the moat with the help of children from Leonard Cheshire and Admiral volunteers. These plants were provided by, and the day was overseen by, expert local business Celtic Wildflowers. The new improved moat will provide an important wildlife stepping stone for pollinators and other species, helping Swansea to become a more resilient city for people and nature.

#### **Work towards creating a low carbon economy, which promotes renewable energy and takes actions to reduce our carbon footprint.**

In taking action to reduce our carbon footprint, streams of work have been divided into a 2030 target of Net Zero emissions for Swansea Council and 2050 for Swansea as a whole. A Climate Charter and Pledge Wall have been developed to encourage Swansea groups, public bodies, businesses, schools and individuals to make a commitment to get to Net Zero by 2050.

Training and awareness campaigns have commenced with internal staff and work is underway to develop an awareness programme for the business sector. An Energy Awareness Hub has been piloted in the town centre, run by the Environment Centre, supporting citizens with help and guidance on energy provision, the paying of bills, renewables, etc.

We are continuing to implement agile working so that our workforce can reduce unnecessary travel and plans are underway to vacate the Civic Centre and establish a Central Public Sector hub; this process was accelerated with lockdown.

Swansea Council is seeking to receive accreditation for the work it's doing to reduce its overall ecological footprint. As well as decarbonisation, this covers buildings, travel, land use and waste as well as biodiversity and the impact on natural resources. The *One Planet Standard* recognises organisations who seek to respect Planet Earth's natural boundaries and capacities by adjusting the impacts of their activities to a level commensurate with what the planet can provide. At the same time, it can help to combat climate change and re-introduce more biodiversity and nature into our environment.

#### Case Study 2: Council unveils its Charter on Climate Action and Nature Recovery

Members from across Swansea Council's political spectrum have become the first signatories of the council's Charter on Climate Action. Other people and organisations around the city will also soon have the chance to sign the charter online. It is a visible public reminder that the Council aims to become net zero carbon by 2030 - and aims to make the city net zero by 2050. Political leaders were the first people to sign the charter in a socially distanced ceremony at the Guildhall. The Leader of the Council Cllr Rob Stewart said: "The charter demonstrates this council's commitment to do all we can to help fix the problems of climate change that recent generations have created."

“As a Council we've been very successful in cutting our carbon footprint year after year with almost 24,000 tonnes saved per year compared to 2009 emissions - a reduction of over 55%.”

“We've been on an ambitious path of carbon reduction since 2012, and are now leading Wales in so many areas of climate change, carbon reduction, sustainability and biodiversity, but we intend to do much more.”

### **Delivery of the Energy Strategy to reduce costs, provide cheaper energy and reduce our carbon footprint.**

An Energy Strategy and Carbon Management Plan were approved in December 2021 and an Action Plan is in place to support delivery to reduce costs, provide cheaper energy and reduce the Council's carbon footprint.

Swansea Council's Energy and Carbon Management Strategy is based on an Energy Hierarchy, indicating that reducing energy demand and increasing energy efficiency are the best starting points (Fabric First approach). Energy efficiency actions reduce energy demand and enable us to use energy wisely. Maximising energy savings and energy efficiency will be essential to the feasibility of increasing reliance on low carbon sources of energy.

Swansea Council procures its energy using Crown Commercial Services Framework Agreements, via the National Procurement Service (NPS), for the vast majority of supplies. All electricity procured via the NPS framework is from 100% renewable energy sources; 41% sourced from Wales (Apr 20 – Mar 21); Gas – Total Gas and Power (TGP) procured as new gas supplier (Apr 21 – Mar 22); Green Gas tariffs - dependant on viability and cost impact; pricing option available with TGP later in the year.

#### **Case Study 3: Plans to establish a council-operated solar farm at Tir John**

The Tir John scheme would see the council selling green electricity generated to the national grid and help reduce the council's carbon footprint by 3% a year until at least the year 2050. The 17-acre scheme would generate 3MW a year and make use of former landfill areas at the site. As a landfill site, the ground conditions are not developable. However, the 'capped areas' areas no longer being used for landfill could accommodate the solar farm. Andrea Lewis, Cabinet Member for Homes and Energy in 2021/22, said the project would be another example of the council's commitment to playing its part in supporting the provision of clean energy to local communities. She said: "Councils around Wales are accessing Welsh Government funds to develop green energy projects that pay their own way and help cut carbon footprints." "This Solar Farm could play an integral part in our ability to achieve our goal of becoming a Carbon Neutral Council." "Over the lifetime of the project it should generate 101,302,731kw of energy. The Welsh Government has set out an ambition that 70% of energy consumed in this country should be from renewable resources by 2030. This project will help towards that ambition."

Regional collaboration has been established to support reductions across the West Wales region. The Council have continued to support community owned renewable energy schemes to deliver clean energy and benefit local schools and communities having successfully installed 900 kW of roof top Solar Photovoltaic systems across a number of schools.

### Case Study 5: Swansea Schools take Climate Action

Egni has also established an ambitious education programme in partnership with EnergySparks and the STEM Ambassadors programme. The EnergySparks portal draws on actual electricity and gas consumption data, as well as solar generation, and enables pupils and staff to make energy improvements, which they can then look to measure in the data.

Rosie Gillam, Egni's co-director said "It shows what can be achieved through co-operative action. We now have 88 sites across Wales and they save about £108k/year on their electricity costs – and prevent the emission of over 1,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. Swansea pupils and staff have been so supportive and enthusiastic in helping to make these projects happen during a difficult time."

### **Act in response to the Climate Emergency.**

Following on from the Council declaring a Climate Emergency in June 2019, a Nature Emergency was declared in 2021 and an Energy Crisis in February 2022. A Climate Change and Nature Recovery Strategy was approved in November 2021 and an Action Plan is currently being developed.

The council's Climate Survey, aimed at all residents of all ages and organisations of all types, represented the start a conversation as the council aims to create a strategic city-wide approach to achieving a net zero carbon Swansea. Results from the survey were published in November 2021, and included the following aspects:

- Covid Gaps – more targeted engagement with children, young people, business and face-to-face offline opportunities are planned. Members discussed the ongoing need for better engagement with children and young people, and how the Council can better engage with these groups.
- The survey took place between 15 February and 29 March 2021. After cleaning the data, 967 responses and 396 Twitter poll responses have informed reporting. A high number of qualitative comments in relation to every topic illustrates the depth of public interest in this agenda with the vast majority of comments demanding positive action and a small minority expressing negative opinion, concerns or alternatives.
- There was an overwhelmingly positive response to the Council's top ten proposed actions to ensure it becomes a Net Zero organisation by 2030. Positive support for each of the proposed actions ranged between from 80% and 98% (where respondents stated they strongly agree or tend to agree). The greatest strength of agreement was in support of 'tree cover and biodiversity' at 85% strong agreement.

### Case Study 6: Swansea Market.

More than 40 photovoltaic panels have been fitted to the roof to increase the venue's green credentials, helping the city tackle the climate emergency.

The 80 sq m surface of the panels is expected to provide more than 5% of the market's power - and to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by three tonnes.

Other carbon-reduction measures already in place at the Swansea Council-run facility include LED lighting in the offices and in other locations plus recycling amenities for the treatment of waste.

### **Continue to participate in and support the Low Carbon Swansea Initiative.**

The Council has maintained its membership of and commitment to the Low Carbon Swansea Bay (LCSB) network. Activities and events were once again disrupted by the pandemic this year, but

online webinars took place and the key focus for LCSB partners this year was the preparation of a Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter in collaboration with Public Health Wales and Swansea Environmental Forum.

The council continues to promote the use of Electrical Vehicles. Swansea Council already has around 60 electric vehicles in its fleet. A further 200-300 will be introduced in the next few years.

Other projects being rolled out by the council to help the city decrease carbon emissions include EV charging points. There are currently 12 council car parks offering electric vehicle charge points for use by the public. All of the charge points in council car parks provide users with 100% renewable electricity. The 12 sites offer a combined total of 32 'fast' charge points, meaning that the charge points offer 7-22kW power.

The Council aims to continue installing EV charge points across the local authority area. This will contribute to the Welsh Government's ambition in transitioning to a low carbon, low emission transport system in Wales, and align with the Welsh Government's Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, and Llwybr Newydd: a new Wales transport strategy.

#### Case Study 7: Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter.

Following on from work done during 2021/22, the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter was launched in May 2022, signed by 11 leading organisations from across the region.

Swansea Council Joint Deputy Leader, Cllr. Andrea Lewis, affirmed the Council's support for the Swansea Bay Healthy Travel Charter and the commitment to taking practical measures to promote active travel and sustainable transport. Cllr Lewis said "We're committed to working with local and regional partners to deliver the actions outlined in the charter. Excellent work is already underway, encouraging local people to consider more active and sustainable transport options, such as walking, cycling, using low-emission vehicles and using public transport."

Actions within the Charter include establishing a network of sustainable travel champions within each organisation, developing targeted communications campaigns for staff, offering and promoting the cycle to work scheme and promoting public transport discounts.

The public sector in Swansea employs over a third of working adults (over 42,000 people) so this commitment may have a significant positive impact on the environment as well as associated health benefits.

#### **Support initiatives that will increase Swansea's urban tree cover.**

A green artery has been created through Swansea City Centre with several green, tree-lined spaces integrated within the redevelopment of the Kingsway; doubling the number of trees in this area of the city centre, and adding large grassy areas with extra plants and shrubbery. The new trees (circa 170) include alder, birch, cherry, lime, maples and flowering pears.

Other city centre tree planting projects, such as the Boulevard and Westway, have seen the Council introduce significantly more street trees and other green areas than were previously present. This has created an attractive street scene and will encourage greater biodiversity.



Further extensive tree planting has been undertaken on Council land throughout the County including up to 1000 trees and 5600 whips, and the Council has been declared a Queens Green Champion City in recognition of its extensive tree planting projects.

#### Case Study 9: The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy announced that Swansea would be joining twelve other cities around the UK, including Manchester and Leicester, to help celebrate the 70th anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen's 70th year on the throne.

Rob Stewart, Leader of the Council, said: "It is such an honour for Swansea to have been nominated a Queen's Green Canopy Champion City."

"It is recognition of what's been achieved in the last few years in creating a new city centre urban park - the first in Swansea for a century - and the planting of thousands of trees along key routes in Swansea."

"We're also being recognised for the work we have done with partners to plant even more trees around the city, including thousands of new trees at sites including Mynydd Newydd Playing Fields and residential areas such as Penlan."

The Kingsway has been re-fashioned into a refreshing city centre green space boasting more than double the number of trees and greenery than it had before. The Council has been consulting on doing something similar for Castle Square Gardens with news on proposals due in the next few months.

Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management, said: "The news of the city receiving this title is a real credit to the work we have carried out in recent years and also for the plans we have for the future.

"It clearly recognises the efforts we are making to improve the city's green infrastructure and improve our local environment.

"All of our new cycle routes are benefitting from additional tree planting. We have recently planted more trees in many of our parks. It's also important we recognise the work to manage our existing trees and remove diseased and dangerous trees and replace with more suitable species that we know thrive in urban areas."

Tree-planting season started last month and areas getting new trees will be the area around the new-look Broadway junction above Tycoch, Kingsbridge, Sketty Park, Ynystawe Park, Wind Street, Townhill and in Gorseinon. Off-road cycling and pedestrian routes are also expected to benefit from extra tree planting as well.

Swansea Council is also progressing a new concept for the city centre's Castle Square, introducing more greenery. The amount of space for people to gather, sit out and relax would remain the same. Green space would grow from today's 25% cover to more than 40%. Biodiversity would increase and most existing trees would remain, with new trees planted.

#### **Improve awareness and understanding of our natural environment through provision of information, training and events.**

An annual programme of environmental events is published online to improve awareness and understanding of the local natural environment. An annual celebration of Wales' magnificent wildlife with a host of local, national and online events which highlight different habitats - woodlands, wetlands, meadows, peatlands, marine and coastal, and urban habitats.

Recent events have included:

- Nature Art at Bishop's Wood: A morning of discovery and creativity using what nature provides.
- Babell Graveyard Volunteer Morning: Helping to create a space for nature and people in the heart of Cwmbwrla at this much-neglected graveyard. Tasks include cutting and digging up brambles, litter picking and developing a garden area.
- Discover Oxwich National Nature Reserve: Warden-led walk around the dunes, across boardwalks to see wildfowl, a host of dragonflies and perhaps even an otter before investigating the adder bank to see snakes then journey through the dunes and back along the beach.
- Swansea Community Farm Volunteer Session: Opportunities to learn new things, connect with people and get active. Activities include mucking out the animals, organic gardening, taking part in nature and conservation tasks, building and construction or site maintenance,
- Reptiles and Wildflowers with Gower Society Youth: exploring the wildlife sanctuary at Nitten Field to spot reptiles and see the wildflowers in this unique location.

Case Study 10: Expert tuition is helping Swansea Council take more action than ever to help curb climate change.

A series of "carbon literacy" lessons and workshops for members and officers has seen them take key actions as the council works to make Swansea net zero carbon by 2050. The council itself aims to be net zero by 2030.

Andrea Lewis, the council's joint deputy leader and cabinet member for climate change and service transformation in 2021/22, said: "The council is committed to do all it can to tackle the world's climate and nature emergency - and we want to bring the rest of Swansea along with us.

"Offering carbon literacy courses to our staff and members is a small but important step. We plan to roll out climate training across the council."

Carbon literacy is an awareness of the carbon costs and impacts of everyday activities and the ability to reduce emissions.

### **Provide opportunities for schoolchildren to access and learn about their natural environment.**

A Covid interrupted programme of support for schools to help raise biodiversity awareness including on site activities and practical initiatives has recommenced.

The Council supports Foundation Phase pupils to study and learn outdoors, ensuring a respect for nature, biodiversity and ecosystems. In support of this the Council's Nature Conservation Team have provided opportunities for children and young people to engage with nature via a range of initiatives such as:

- Outdoor activities delivered at the Council's Activity Centres in Port Eynon, Rhossili and Bishop's Wood, Caswell.
- Regular field study visits and numerous public events at Bishops Wood Local Nature Reserve.
- INSET days have been delivered to build capacity among teachers for working outdoors with pupils.
- Support also provided for Forest School and Sculpture by the Sea Activities.

Work within classrooms, through cross-curricular topics aligned to the science and geography curriculum is a key feature of sustainability education. Developing the outdoor environment and establishing links with projects and schools at an international level also supports learners to develop a better understanding of local biodiversity as well as global citizenship. Numerous Swansea

schools have been accredited with the Platinum Award for eco schools (42% of schools with Platinum and 23% with Green Flag awards).

Development of the natural environment within Swansea school grounds has seen vegetable gardens grown, bug hotels opened, raised flower beds sown, trees and orchards planted and literacy trails established. Consumption and waste reduction is also a key theme in Swansea schools. A strong willingness by schools to re-cycle and re-use is championed by eco school committee members across Swansea. Nearly all Swansea schools have developed their own eco code to support sustainability and the theme of developing 'ethical citizens' features strongly in the new Curriculum for Wales (2022).

#### Case Study 11: Bishopston Primary School

Swansea Rural Development Partnership are pleased to announce their support of the project Nature Area for Outdoor Learning delivered by Bishopston Primary. The Partnership has successfully allocated £5,000 of funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. Hamish Osborn, of Natural Resources Wales and Chair of Swansea Rural Development Partnership said "the Local Action Group is pleased to be supporting the Nature Area for Outdoor Learning project. We see merit in developing spaces that will not only encourage biodiversity, but also provide a valuable learning tool for our younger generation to gain an understanding of the importance of caring for our environment".

Nature Area for Outdoor Learning project is a response to pupils of Bishopston Primary and local community who want to encourage Outdoor Learning, through the creation of a dedicated nature area, which can be used every day as a working area for children.

The school will contribute to the aims of Swansea Local Delivery Strategy by improving health, maintaining and enhance biodiversity; reducing their carbon footprint; and crucially improving knowledge and understanding of our natural environment.

#### **Work towards improving access to and maintaining the quality of our parks and greenspaces.**

The first urban park to have been created in the city since the Victorian era has been completed in 2022, adjoining the new Swansea Arena. Constructed above a new car park, the coastal park has been designed in a dune-like shape to celebrate its closeness to Swansea beach. A living wall features on the Oystermouth Road side of the new car park to complement new greenery that has been introduced.

Swansea Council has also secured grant funding worth over £240,000, obtained during 2021/22 to improve the quality of parks and greenspaces including tree planting schemes, whilst over £370,000 funding has been bid for 2022/23 to continue this work.

#### **Continue to deliver a programme of wildflower planting and management.**

The Council's wildflower planting programme has now extended to around 40,000sq.m (about 6 football pitches) of wildflowers across approximately 190 sites. In support of this new grant funded cut and collect machinery has been purchased to help better manage grass cutting and help boost wildflowers and pollinators by maintaining species-rich vegetation. Complementary training has also been delivered including grassland management of parks/verges; benefits of cut and collect; right tree in right place and nature emergency.

In June 2022, Swansea Bay News reported that *over the past few years the council has attracted pollinating insects to its roadside verges, roundabouts, parks and rough ground by allowing the grass to grow long in selected locations, which allows wildflowers to bloom, and by seeding formal beds with a colourful mix of flowers.*

The Council is now introducing native wildflowers at a dozen locations around the city which will continue to bloom year after year. Seeds specially selected from the National Botanic Garden of Wales' wildflower meadows in Carmarthenshire have been planted. The move supports the council's commitment to tackling climate change and biodiversity loss by promoting plant and insect life, on top of the new ways of cutting grass that is promoting pollinators and environmentally-healthy parks and verges.

#### Case study 12: new ways to cut grass.

Thanks to Welsh Government grants (Local Places for Nature) for new equipment and advice from eco-charity Plantlife, the Council is using new ways to cut grass that promotes pollinators, wildflowers and environmentally healthy parks and verges.

The move comes as part of the Council's commitment to playing its part in tackling climate change and biodiversity loss by promoting plant life and is on top of its hugely popular wildflower planting initiative.

Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement and Infrastructure Management in 2021/22 said: "We led the way among local authorities with the wildflower initiative, creating insect havens that were also colourful additions to local communities and roadsides.

"At the same time, we also reduced the amount of grass cutting we do to allow insects and wildflowers to thrive in parks and on roadsides. Now we're aiming to boost local diversity even more with our new cut and collect grass management programme.

"Our new approach to grass cutting is in addition to what we're already doing and is the best of both worlds because it encourages the maintenance of species-rich vegetation in parks and verges. It also curbs the growth of invasive plants that can sometimes take over habitats.

"But the best thing about it is that we cut the grass twice in the season at specific times so that flowers can complete their lifecycles and naturally distribute seed ready for the next time.

"This cutting less and cutting later approach to grassy areas replenish the seed bank, restores floral diversity, and provides pollinator habitat across the county."

The Welsh Government has supported the scheme with grant funding for specialist cutting equipment and new machinery. It cuts and collects grass while at the same time carefully removing other dead vegetation to allow air and rain to get to the soil so that seeds have room to germinate.

#### **Engage with local communities to encourage volunteering and to support them taking action to enhance and maintain their local greenspaces and wildlife sites.**

Despite the impact of the pandemic, collaboration with community groups and other partners has been maintained and increased over the past year including with the Swansea Local Nature Partnership, Clyne Community Volunteers, Rosehill Quarry, various Friends of Parks Groups and the Environment Centre.

A grant funded Natural Environment Volunteer Co-ordinator post has been created in 2022 to re-establish and support opportunities for environmental volunteering with such activities being curtailed by Covid over the past couple of years.

### **Take actions that help to control invasive non-native species.**

The Nature Conservation Team is responsible for the management of 6 Local Nature Reserves and numerous of Council owned Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs). It also provides advice to other Council staff with land management responsibilities. This involves the preparation of management plans and agreements, practical site management and maintenance work, tackling Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS), managing contractors and supporting community and volunteer participation in biodiversity delivery.

It can take up to 5 years to clear INNS from a site and there are ongoing rolling clearance programmes focussing primarily within Council Housing Estates to improve the local environmental quality but also this year through successful grant funding bids extending into Gower AONB including a £10,000 project to eradicate Japanese Knotweed from Ilston Woods, as well as working with volunteers to remove INNS from managed sites such as Clyne Country Park.

### **Undertake a range of actions to improve air and water quality.**

Swansea Council submits an Annual Progress Report (APR) to Welsh Government each year advising upon the assessment of ambient air quality in accordance with the EU objective concentrations.

The Pollution Control & Private Sector Housing Team continues to monitor air quality across the authority, working with other Council departments. Collaboration with the Council's Highways Service takes place to provide input and assessment of air quality impacts for highway schemes. As part of a collaboration with the Nature Conservation Team, a 'Green Screen' has been installed along Fabian Way.

Whilst Swansea is currently compliant with Welsh Governments' Air Quality Objectives, in-line with Welsh Government policy, the Council will continue to work towards reducing exposure where possible.

A multi-staged review and assessment of air quality within Swansea has been carried out to identify those areas that would exceed the national air quality standards and objectives. Real time air quality data is posted online and on site in relation to these locations (<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/airquality>).

Bathing water quality is monitored by Natural Resources Wales and Gower beaches easily surpass standards, however Swansea Bay is more complex and changeable throughout the day. The Council therefore post information up to 3 times a day on site and also broadcast on social media. (<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/bathingwater>)

#### **Case Study 14: New 'green' bus shelters**

Swansea Council is in the process of replacing more than 100 ageing bus shelters across the city, with many having been installed 30 years ago. The new shelters are being provided by Bus Shelters Ltd.

Part of the city-wide upgrade will include 10 new 'green roof' bus shelters, featuring natural plants on top, which can help filter out dust particles and contribute to better air quality.

The 'green' bus shelters will be installed along the roadside at Mumbles Road, Oystermouth Road, Quay Parade, Walter Road and St Helen's Road.

Mark Thomas, Cabinet Member for Environment Enhancement & Infrastructure Management in 2021/22, said: "Our current stock of bus shelters have been in place for many decades and are in need of upgrading.

"We're arranging for more than 100 new shelters to be installed during the next few months.

"We've also decided to introduce a number of environmentally friendly bus shelters along some of our busy bus routes in the city. While they may appear as a bit of a novelty to some - they will certainly help in our wider work to improve air quality and hopefully they will also help raise awareness of the importance of green infrastructure when the public see them.

"The new green bus shelters will also complement our Copr Bay Coastal Park development where we are introducing a green space for the public to enjoy."

The initial phase of this upgrade programme will involve the removal of existing bus shelters. New shelters will then be installed shortly after.

### **Undertake (selected or targeted) enhancements to greenspace as part of an environmental works programme to meet our commitment to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.**

Enhancement of greenspaces has been an ongoing process over the past 4 years as part of the environmental works programme to meet the Council's commitment to the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) and to address deficiencies in access to natural greenspace.

<https://www.swansea.gov.uk/article/2907/Welsh-housing-quality-standard>

WHQS reporting to Welsh Government had been suspended in 2020 due to Covid. As at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020 there were 7,753 fully compliant homes and there are 5,795 homes containing at least one acceptable fail in Swansea. This represents 57.2% fully compliant and 42.8% with acceptable fails. Fully compliant levels will rise and acceptable fails will reduce as the remaining improvement programmes continue.

Swansea Council has completed the retrofit project in Craig Cefn Parc in partnership with Cardiff University's Welsh School of Architecture. The Retrofit scheme is the first of its kind in Wales and consists of 6 bungalows which have had External Wall Insulation (EWI), new rendering, and new energy efficient windows and doors. Each property has been fitted with renewable technologies including ground source heat pumps, solar panelled integrated roofs, Tesla battery storage and Mechanical Ventilation Heating Recovery (MVHR) units.

This has transformed the bungalows into some of the most energy efficient homes in Wales substantially improving the warmth and comfort of the bungalows. Energy demand is significantly reduced thus reducing energy bills for the residents.

### **Minimise our use of non-recyclable products and materials, and recycle more waste.**

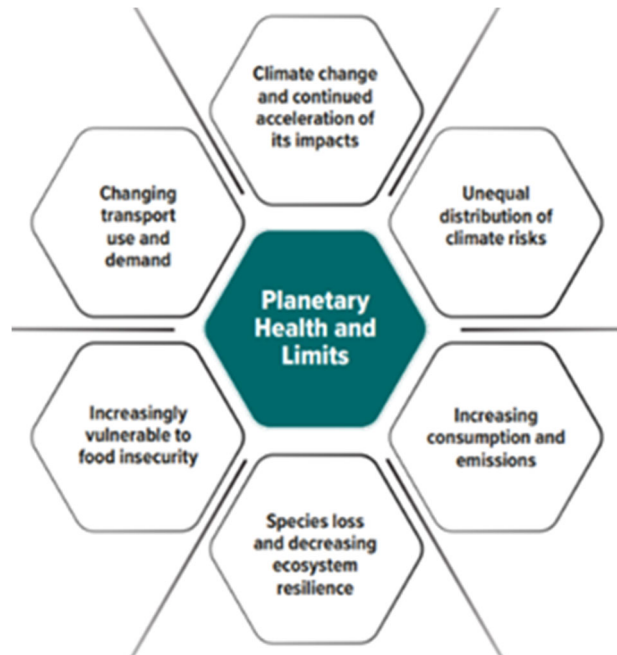
Provisional annual data for 2021 measuring the municipal waste collected and reused and/or recycled stood at 63.68%. The data is provisional due to the difference in reporting/data periods for Welsh Government. The comparative recycling rate is slightly down on last year's figures due to the ongoing impact of Covid, more black bags are being generated at the kerbside and commercial waste has now increased to near pre-Covid levels.

### **3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?**

Required actions are primarily long-term objectives or ongoing actions that are measurable in some cases in decades e.g. net zero carbon by 2030, increasing specific tree canopy coverage by 2044, etc.

These are not suitable actions for monitoring on a quarterly or even annual basis in many cases. Whilst they must undoubtedly remain ongoing commitments there needs to be some specific targets that are SMART.

Using the Welsh Government Route map to net zero, Swansea Council will align with its principles, knowing what needs to be done now, by 2022-26 Low Carbon becoming the norm and by 2030 where choosing carbon zero is routine. This objective will be pivotal to reacting effectively to the identified trend within The Future Trends Report Wales – Planetary Health and Limits.



Based on the Future Generations Commissioners Report 2020 – Swansea Council will strive to focus on the following areas and should:

- Demonstrate global citizenship and leadership by supporting sustainable behaviour and making the connections.
- Play our part to ensure Wales is welcoming, safe and fair to all.
- Commit to fair and ethical investment and divestment - making the right financial decisions now to enable future generations to thrive.
- Ensure supply chains are fair, ethical and sustainable.
- Ensure that Swansea understands the importance of using the earth's resources efficiently in order to contribute to global well-being.

Within the Council, there is demonstrated a clear understanding of meeting the long-term challenges, for example:

- *Decarbonisation* - In October 2021 Swansea Council submitted its first emissions report to Welsh Government. Work will continue to deliver net zero carbon for the Council by 2030 and for Swansea by 2050. The Council prepared and submitted to Welsh Government in Dec 2019 a report (Section 6 Monitoring Report) outlining what it has done to comply with the Section 6 Biodiversity Duty. <https://democracy.swansea.gov.uk/documents/s62825/11%20-%20Section%206%20Biodiversity%20Monitoring%20Report%20Dec%202019.pdf>



- *Climate Pledge* - Collaborative working to influence Swansea-wide behaviour change can be demonstrated through the introduction of a climate pledge, the sign up of large businesses across Swansea to our climate charter, ongoing work with PSB and collaborative working with an environmental partner, schools, community groups and businesses. Risks are monitored through the corporate risk register and Swansea had declared a Climate Emergency in June 2019, A Nature Emergency in November 2021 and an Energy Crisis Notice of Motion in January 2022.

How we will do better - We will

- Monitor the delivery of the Section 6 Corporate Biodiversity Plan, the Nature Recovery Action Plan and the Resilient Wales goal through annual business planning and reporting mechanisms up to 2027. We will report to WG every 3 years in line with our Biodiversity Duty.
- Embed a Climate Change and Nature Strategy and monitor the delivery of respective Action Plans up to 2027
- Continue to monitor air, water and soil quality.
- Monitor the delivery the Energy Action Plan targets proposed to 2027.
- Set out new measures for monitoring the impact of our Procurement of goods and services in line with eth emerging WG carbon measurement toolkit.
- Embed and deliver a Sustainable Transport Strategy to 2027.
- Continue to report the number of new homes constructed to net carbon zero standards and set out new measures of recording the decarbonisation of our existing stock in line with emerging WG guidance.
- Report on the delivery of a Waste Reduction Strategy.
- Secure grants and other external funding to help deliver the above.

4. Conclusion - the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

A review of the evidence in relation to whether the Council is exercising its functions effectively in relation to its Natural Resources & Biodiversity priority suggests that it is owning its ambition.

<i>Well-being Objectives</i>	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity</i>				x	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a 'business as usual' mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:



### *Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

The evidence shows that the Council has made significant progress meeting the steps required to deliver this well-being objective and, at a strategic level over the past few years with its declaration of climate and nature emergencies, the establishment of a related corporate programme board and member steering group. Scrutiny committees are overseeing progress in relation to addressing climate and nature issues and the Council now has a Section 6 Plan to ensure it meets its Biodiversity Duties. There is greater tie in with the work of the Public Service Board and other organisations with responsibility for climate and nature matters. Additional staff resources have been/are being made available to help deliver projects that tackle climate and nature emergency locally, whilst increased grants are also being made available by funding providers over longer periods in recognition that there is no quick fix.

### *Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

Swansea Council is maximising its contribution to its Well-being Objectives and National Goals, embedding Nature at the heart of Swansea by ensuring that Green Infrastructure is a key aspect of service delivery and communities are enabled to shape their place. Partners are collaboratively acting to reduce carbon emissions through sharing assets and knowledge, in addition to joint working through local initiatives.

- *A Prosperous Wales* - The unique natural environment in Swansea and its Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty supports thousands of jobs in the tourism sector worth £440 million per annum to the local economy.
- *A Resilient Wales* - The resilience of our natural environment is improved by restoring degraded habitats and through habitat creation and improving connectivity.
- *A Healthier Wales* – Trees play an important role in relation to filtering air of harmful particulates reducing respiratory conditions, while natural spaces have a documented beneficial impact on mental health.
- *A More Equal Wales* - Involvement in environmental training and volunteering builds skills that are accessible to all.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – The social benefits that accompany improving the percentage of tree cover and natural open space within Swansea create welcoming communities where people are proud to belong and experience an improved quality of life.
- *A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Welsh Language* – Accessible, managed green and beach space offers sport and recreational opportunities while Swansea’s physical geography and maritime location have inspired a rich local cultural identity.
- *A Globally Responsible Wales* – Reduces our impact on the planet, moving towards a ‘one planet’ Wales that does not use more than its fair share of resources.

### *Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The Council is working sustainably in line with the following five ways of working needed for Public Bodies to achieve the well-being objective and national well-being goals.

- *Addressing long-term challenges* - We are working to better understand our carbon footprint, in line with emerging guidance for public sector greenhouse emissions reporting. We have reviewed council policies in relation to climate change and are integrating adaptation and mitigation strategies to inform all future work programmes between 2021 and 2030.

- *Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse* - Climate change and loss of biodiversity have been mitigated and adaptation measures taken by prioritising and investing in Green Infrastructure and low carbon design. This offers a preventative approach in reducing our carbon emissions and improves the economic prospects of the city centre by repurposing the area as a green destination. In order to understand long term impacts and protect our environment and heritage for future generations, measures have been put in place and studies commissioned to measure and take action to reduce visitor impacts on biodiversity and the historic landscape, e.g. at Cefn Bryn and Port Eynon.
- *Working in partnership with others* - The Council has forged close relationships with both national organisations like Natural Resources Wales and the RSPB and also local ones such as Swansea Environmental Forum, the Swansea Biodiversity Partnership and the Swansea Environment Centre. The development of tools and strategic guidance for developers is resulting in closer working with the private sector.
- *Joining things up and avoiding conflicts* - The Swansea Central Green Infrastructure strategy was developed collaboratively with NRW to ensure the approach aligned with common objectives across the public, private and third sectors. This integrated approach is being expanded with the development of a county wide Green infrastructure Strategy where a variety of Public Services Board partners will be involved in ensuring a strategic approach is developed which aligns priorities and addresses potential conflicts. The Climate Change Programme Board provides a forum where Council policy overlaps, gaps and synergies can be identified in relation to Green Infrastructure and other climate and nature related activity.
- *Involving people* - In order to become a Net Zero City and County of Swansea by 2050, the Council recognises everyone will need to play their part and so started a long term engagement process during lockdown. This was the first time Swansea Council has specifically asked residents about their attitudes to climate change. The survey response rate was particularly high with over 1000 citizens participating in a survey, related Twitter poll and discussions. The overwhelmingly positive response indicating widespread concern about climate change and an appetite for action provides a firm foundation to take forward ongoing broader involvement activity.

## Transformation and Future Council Development

### 1. Why this is a Well-being Objective and what does success look like?

- We want to modernise and transform the Council through our Achieving Better Together programme. In the short term this will focus on actions and interventions related to Covid-19, including how we emerge and recover from the pandemic. In the medium to long term the programme will build on what has changed as a result of the pandemic and how we can deliver services in different ways to help tackle rising demand and reducing revenue budgets.
- During the pandemic Council services were forced to shift to online and telephone. We want to maintain this approach where residents are able to use online channels first, reducing administration and back-office services. We will continue to provide wrap-around support where it is needed to ensure inclusion. We want to generate additional income to pay for services and help families earlier so that we can reduce costs later on.
- We want to improve efficiency and further reduce management and business support costs. We also want to continue reviewing all of our services to ensure they are delivered in the best way and saving money by working with partners such as the police and health, or preventing the need for people to access costly statutory services where need can be met elsewhere.
- We want the public to play their part by co-producing and helping to run services, such as the successful scheme where bowlers are maintaining their greens, or by increasing recycling at home.
- We want more people involved in the Council's business and in making decisions on things that affect them and their families and communities.
- We want to invest in our priorities like the city centre, improving classrooms, improving and extending our energy efficient housing stock, and delivering the City Deal with the potential to create 10,000 jobs.

### 2. How well are we doing – and how do we know?

#### **Update the Council's transformation plan to the new Achieving Better Together programme in order to transform services and deliver better**

We have continued to develop and implement the Council's Achieving Better Together programme. A new programme manager was appointed to oversee the development of the programme in June 2021. Recovery activities are well underway and the programme has shifted into the 'refocus' phase of the programme, looking forward into longer-term transformation. During 2021/22, the recovery activities focused on our staff and the organisation and included re-launching the Leadership hub and the Ideas hub to encourage staff engagement. We have also held a number of staff engagement workshops and developed a new Staff handbook. We have renewed our Agile Working Policy and continued to ensure that staff have a safe working environment at home, in our offices and buildings and in public spaces. We have also developed a programme timetable for our Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and monitored the outcomes from our Economic Recovery Fund as we recover from the pandemic.

Recovery activities for our citizens have included the expansion our Local Area Coordination services across the County and the development of Volunteering Toolkits and training. We have continued to re-focus our back office services and increased our use of automation. We have continued to develop a joint and holistic approach to recovery through the development of closer working between departments such as Education and Social Services e.g. developing a shared understanding

of vulnerability criteria for vulnerable children and a single point of contact. We have also worked with a range of other partners and the third sector to develop innovative approaches, such as the Community Calling project providing smartphones and tablets to individuals without digital access. We have also developed a COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, which has supported local businesses, protected local jobs and secured new investment in the city.

Our Achieving Better Together programme has a robust programme management framework and governance arrangements in place. Recovery activities are managed and overseen by the Steering Group and strategic issues and risks escalated to a Board. During 2021/22, an internal audit took place to examine the effectiveness of governance and assurance arrangements of the programme and concluded that the programme demonstrated a level of 'high assurance' with a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the programme objectives. The Scrutiny Programme Committee also continued to scrutinise the effectiveness of the programme and examined progress in October 2021.

The programme has started to look beyond 2022, it will take account the priorities of the new Council, a new Chief Executive and Corporate Plan. During the preparation of the next phase and exiting delivery of phase 2 we will work towards:

- Developing the framework for the future delivery programme – Phase 3 of Achieving Better Together – Reshape.
- Ensuring Strategies and action plans (housing, Schools, economy, social care) are embedded and change is visible and increasing in pace.
- A reviewed and updated corporate plan.
- Ensuring the culture of the organisation is working to align to the delivery of the corporate plan.
- Ensure all priority service areas have new models of delivery maturing.
- Delivering a balanced budget and long term MTFP (Medium Term Financial Plan) that is sustainable.

When the new Cabinet is appointed in May 2022 we will “review the Achieving Better Together transformation strategy and programme goals”.

Feedback from leadership sessions and listening to work stream leads will influence a revised governance structure for the next phase of the programme. For example: the timeliness of meetings has been raised; this will be considered as part of the review.

It is important as we move forward, we ensure structures and governance help to avoid duplicating or confusing responsibilities and accountabilities or add unnecessary bureaucracy.

**Implement the Council's Organisational Development Strategy to deliver transformed services, so that we have the right people with the right skills, particularly in light of Covid-19.**

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unprecedented pressures on the Council's workforce. A Scrutiny Working Group was established to review the changes and support that was required during the pandemic and as we recovered. During 2021/22 we continued to review our Agile working policy and work towards developing a hybrid model. We have also continued to improve our support for Agile working by providing 1-2-1 support to staff, teams meetings, equipment and information about how to claims back some of the costs associated with working at home.

During 2021/22, we continued to develop a comprehensive Workforce Strategy for 2022-27, following extensive consultation with Members, Senior Leadership, Trade Unions and a cross-section of the workforce from all Directorates. In addition to the continued development of our Workforce Strategy, we have re-structured all human resources functions under one Head of HR and Service Centre. Our Workforce Strategy is closely aligned to our Achieving Better Together programme and is part of the third and final re-shape phase of the programme. The Strategy contains four key themes; Leadership and Management, a Workforce Fit for the Future, being an Employer of Choice and Wellbeing and Inclusion and contains nine strands and associated actions. Progress to date includes the re-accreditation of our Disability Confident Employer status with a view to working towards Disability Confident Leader status in the future.

We have also continued to work with Trade Unions and held a workshop on the development of a Social Partnership workshop and reviewed our Dying to Work” charter. We have also established a new Workforce Equalities Group to support the delivery of Equalities activities, delivered a new mandatory e-learning package on Equalities and developed a proposed framework for Welsh Language skills. This year we have also developed a Coaching and Mentoring strategy and re-branded the Leadership Hub which provides staff with a range of different opportunity learn about leadership and organisational culture.

Although the number of sickness days per fte. has increased slightly during 2021/22, compared to the previous year, additional resources have been provided to human resources and organisational development and occupational health to manage absence and sickness. This year we have also appointed three Management of Absence Officers to support Directorates in the management of sickness absence and contributed to the reduction in the number of outstanding Early Retirement cases across the Council by 25%. In addition, we are working to recruit more Helping Hands Volunteers and develop a tailored package for schools based on the Helping Hands model and develop a range of resources for managers such as Mental Health First Aid Training, Stress Awareness sessions and other preventative workshops and toolkits.

**Embed equality and diversity into service delivery through a network of Equality Representatives appointed in each service and produce a new Strategic Equality Plan 2020-23 for the Council.**

We published a new Strategic Equality Plan (SEP) 2020-24 in 2020. During 2021/22 we have continued to implement the plan and reviewed our annual progress through our Annual Review of Equality and Diversity (ARED) 2020-21, in addition to reporting on the Gender Pay gap and publishing a Workforce report. Our Equalities staff representative group has continued to meet during 2021/22 and have discussed a range of topics such Easy Read documents, Plain English/Welsh, Welsh Language Standards and has continued to raise awareness and promoted a range of different equality events and groups and equality training. The group works under the auspices of the Equalities and Future Generation Board – a Strategic Board established to oversee the delivery of the SEP 2020-24. A co-ordinator for the Board has been appointed and is working towards Swansea becoming a Human Rights City. As part of our Workforce and Organisational Development strategy, we have also established a Workforce Equalities group, which is made up from staff with protected characteristics. This group has been established to address equality issues in the workforce such as improving the collection of data about staff with protected characteristics and to ensure we adhere to the Welsh Government’s Race Equality Action Plan and the LGBT+ Action Plan.

During the coming year the Strategic Equalities and Future Generations Board will be monitoring progress on the Strategic Equality Plan and will target areas for further development. Further improvements will include embedding the Race Equality Action Plan and LGBTQ+ Action Plan which

are both awaiting Welsh Government guidance. We are also progressing work on how we can move towards adopting the Social Model of Disability to help make our services more accessible by removing existing barriers. We will also be embedding Human Rights across the council to ensure we meet our obligations as a Human Rights City.

#### Case Study 1: Human Rights City

Swansea Council in partnership with Swansea's Public Service Board (PSB) are working towards declaring Swansea a Human Rights City in December 2022. It is our aim to create a city where everyone is equal. To empower people to understand their rights and respect the rights of others. A steering group was established in September 2021 consisting of a representative from each PSB organisation to drive this ambition, chaired by Cllr Louise Gibbard. On the 10th of December 2021, Human Rights Day, Swansea's PSB publicly declared their intention to become a Human Rights City. Extensive engagement has taken place across Swansea to share the ambition and to gain support. In October 2021 we launched a survey to learn about what residents and visitors of Swansea think the priorities should be when becoming a Human Rights City and to capture a baseline awareness of Human Rights knowledge and awareness in the City. A PSB Partnership Forum event took place in November 2021 with the focus of Human Rights City. Over 60 representatives from private, public and 3rd sector organisations who operate across Swansea took part, including representatives from different services within Swansea Council. An action plan has been developed where we will focus on the priorities that emerged from the engagement. Work is on-going to establish what programmes, initiatives and policies happens already in each PSB organisation across Swansea in relation to each priority.

#### **Review the Council's approach to procurement to secure local economic and community benefits, in line with sustainable development principles.**

During 2021/22, we have continued to build upon our approach to sustainable procurement and the incorporation of sustainable procurement principles based on revised Wales Procurement Policy issued in 2021. Our approach enables our Procurement Officers to engage with services at the very earliest stages of procurement and to consider value from every stage of a project from planning, inception and to completion. In addition, our approach to procurement takes into account wider social values such as safeguarding, equalities and environmental issues, in addition to financial costs and traditional value for money criteria. This year we initiated a pilot project to further review enhanced Social Value based on the 2021 report into public procurement produced by the Future Generations Commissioner. The pilot programme aims to test a number of tools / methodologies of analysis (e.g. the Themes And Outcomes model developed by the independent 'Social Value Portal' with input from the WLGA) and consider if there is further best practice that can then be integrated into our procurement model. It is anticipated that the pilot project will finish at the end of this year with recommendations to be taken forward for review and consideration. The steering group for the pilot program is led by Commercial Services and includes representatives from Corporate Building Services, Highways and Transportation, City Centre and Planning including the Council's Community Benefits team. In addition to the inclusion of community benefits and social value clauses in our contracts, we have also been working to ensure that potential contractors have policies to consider issues such as Modern Slavery, Equal Opportunities, the Welsh Language and Safeguarding.

Our Community Benefits Policy has built upon the success of our Beyond Bricks and Mortar initiative which has realised social value through construction and regeneration activity to encompass all Council procurement projects. Our Beyond Bricks and Mortar Team and our Corporate Procurement Team have worked to identify the community benefit requirements of all Council projects, with

procurement forming part of the Council's sustainability risk assessment, thereby helping to set appropriate targets that focus on recruitment and training, supply chain initiatives, the Welsh Government community benefit tool and other community benefits. During 2021/22, there were 21 projects with social benefit clauses and Beyond Bricks and Mortar criteria incorporated within their contracts and over 7,800 targeted recruitment and training weeks were created.

We have also revised our Constitution to place greater emphasis on using local suppliers to meet our need for goods and services and encouraging local companies to bid for certain projects and maximize the value of the Swansea Pound through the development of the Foundational Economy. The Council also took part in Welsh Government's pilot to develop the Foundational Economy, working on issues related to local procurement and focusing on the construction sector. Lessons learnt from the pilot included changes to the Council's overall procurement approach to ensure that small and local businesses can bid for Council contracts and increasing the money spent by the Council locally.

**Continue to embed a "Digital First" strategy so that citizens can access more Council services and information on-line.**

We have continued to implement our Digital First strategy to ensure that citizens can access Council services and information in a timely manner to suit their needs. During 2021/22 we have revised and updated our Digital First Strategy to take into account learning from the COVID-19 pandemic and new ways of working. The strategy lays out the roadmap for the next four years and draws on the Welsh Government, Central Government, and Local Government Digital Strategies.

The use of the website, online forms, online payments, and the new Customer Account has significantly increased in recent years, especially during 2020/21. The shift to digital channels continued to grow during 2021/22. The number of online payments and the number of forms completed online for fully automated processes has increased year on year, compared with pre-pandemic levels. Although the total annual number of forms completed online during 2021/22 was lower than the previous year, the number is still higher than the pre-pandemic total. The decline is to be expected and as a result of requests during the height of the pandemic where usual collection services such as libraries were closed.

Automation continues to help with routine tasks and staff capacity, e.g. customers accessing Education, Customer Services and Planning services are all using new automated processes for straightforward enquiries. This year we have continued to upgrade the delivery of Swansea Customers Accounts by enabling people to apply for free-school meals and uniform grants on-line. Our Oracle Field Services have developed an on-line process for people to book appointments for housing repairs and for tenants to provide feedback upon completion of work.

**Case Study 2: Robotic Process Automation (RPA)**

RPA and workforce automation is software that mimics the behaviours of humans in order to execute office-based work. Virtual employees are 'trained' on how to use systems and applications. Procedures are replicated in workflows and the virtual worker will execute them on demand or predefined schedule. RPA is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to complete high volume, repetitive, mundane tasks giving human staff the ability to focus on more complex tasks. So far we've achieved savings of 3.85FTE or around £128k - more than it cost to develop the platform. These time savings allow staff to carry out more meaningful tasks or allows us to avoid costs associated with having to draft in extra staffing. The process has helped the Welsh Translation team to process translation requests. This was an early 'proof of concept' process to prove the technology

and test the 'art of the possible'. Using the 'Déjà vu application', this is being used alongside the traditional human translation team to support the delivery of the demanding workload. We have also automated the ordering of recycling bags by residents using the 'Civica Flare' application. We have also updated Education's Special Educational Needs statemented pupil records automatically using CapitaONE records, saving over 600 hours in time and updated planning application software (Idox DMS) for the public to leave comments related to planning applications, saving the department 10 to 15 hours of work per week.

Our e-democracy project is progressing well and the Council Chamber in the Guildhall is now live. A review is being undertaken to map and forward plan CCTV and Ward WiFi. This year we have also developed a Breathing Space app – to help the Council support customers with debt across the Council and improved secure communication between social workers and foster carers as well as providing a digital solution for the entry and approval of daily recording information. We have also replaced contact centre kiosks for public self-service use, developed digital signage for the Grand Theatre and made a number of improvements to the Council website including improved search and accessibility tools and book and pay modules. The Council has continued to work with Swansea Bay City Deal partners. As part of the City Deal Digital Programme, we are working with partners to identify and target future infrastructure opportunities, starting with public assets and buildings. We are also working on the Internet of Things project to improve services to residents across Swansea.

**Promote Digital Inclusion and access online services by providing citizens with lifelong learning opportunities to undertake free computer courses and training.**

We have continued to promote Digital Inclusion and access to online services by providing a range of learning opportunities. During 2021/22 we used a blended learning approach to Digital Inclusion training and support. During this year there were 1250 unique learners registered on Lifelong Learning Courses including Digital Literacy, Essential Skills and Learning for Life. This year the Lifelong Learning Service (LLS) created a new event booking system and continues to offer a daily telephone IT Support service, which was introduced at the beginning of the pandemic. The telephone service supports residents to access online services and signposts individuals to other support organisations where required.

We have continued with our Get Swansea Online programme and basic Digital and IT courses to assist beginner and low-level learners, who may find accessing online delivery difficult. During 2021/22, 196 people participated in the Get Swansea Online programme. We have offered courses at entry level through to Level 2 for individuals wishing to achieve an accreditation or improve their Digital Skills for work and life. The Lifelong Learning Service (LLS) has worked with employability partners to develop bespoke Digital delivery courses and workshops to members of the public interested in developing their Digital skills to support employability prospects.

A number of Digital classes have also been delivered in the community to support people using their own tablets or devices to access services and improve digital communication and collaboration skills. We have also continued to offer IT equipment on a loan basis to individuals wishing to access our programme of learning. The loan scheme has been highly beneficial to individuals enabling access to learning opportunities, support and accreditation. Our LLS have also worked with our Employability Team, our Tackling Poverty Service and Third Sector Partners to support the distribution of refurbished lap tops and smart phones with pre-paid credit to vulnerable people in the community.

**Explore opportunities to collaborate with other local authorities and partners and share services, including back office, to save costs and improve services to citizens.**



We have continued to explore opportunities to collaborate to share services, save on back office costs and improve services. A regional partnership between Swansea Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, Pembrokeshire County Council and Neath & Port Talbot Council was successfully awarded the next round of Digital Transformation Funding to develop Internet of Things capability. The Digital programme aspect of the Swansea Bay City Deal continues to make good progress with partners taking part in a 5G workshop facilitated by Deloitte, and collaborating on a Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) bid. In April 2021, the Digital Programme received endorsement from both the Welsh Government & UK Government. Work is ongoing in relation to updating and refining the Business Case and the latest updated version was presented to and endorsed by the SBCD Digital Infrastructure Programme Board in April 2022.

### Case study 3: Major digital boost for Swansea's 'smart city' vision

Swansea's vision to become a super-connected 'smart city' is picking up pace, thanks to a multi-million pound funding boost. The UK Government and Welsh Government approval of the £55 million Swansea Bay City Deal digital infrastructure programme means Swansea can further build on significant connectivity improvements made in recent years. City Deal investment will help Swansea Council introduce full-fibre connectivity in business parks and areas of the city centre. This will help businesses make the most of latest digital technologies, while helping mobile users stream content and access information quicker. A long-range, open access wireless network will also help make the most of the 'Internet of Things' by connecting technology such as sensors to the internet, which will enable better decisions and improved efficiencies. This could accelerate the use of sensor technology in Swansea to improve traffic flows, monitor when bins need emptying or highlight when elderly or vulnerable people need help at home. Swansea Council could also use City Deal funding to boost the take-up of broadband voucher schemes in rural communities which would give households and businesses there better internet connection.

### **Undertake targeted and effective engagement to develop more collaborative and partnership working with the third and private sectors to achieve the Council's and shared priorities and outcomes.**

Data from the Third Sector Data Hub, WCVA showed that there over 2,100 voluntary and community organisations operated in Swansea during 2021/22 and that 28.5% of residents in Swansea reported that they were volunteers. We have continued to support and build upon our work with the Third Sector through our Compact Liaison group. The Compact Liaison Group is comprised of relevant Council Officers and representatives of the Third Sector. The Group is not a decision-making body but reviews and advises on policy issues affecting both the Statutory and Third sector. During 2021/22, the Compact Liaison Group played a key role in the development of the Council's Achieving Better Together programme by supporting the development of Volunteering toolkits, infrastructure and training. As part of the arrangements, the Council have administered a large number of grants to Third Sector organisations to support community based services, resources, such as grants for Food Poverty, Period Dignity, Mens' Sheds, community based events such as Winter of Well-being and Summer of Fun and provided grants to support services for Children, Young People and their families, Carers, Victims of Domestic Abuse and people living in Rural areas.

### **Review work with communities, organisations and 'friends' groups to encourage and enable greater community ownership of assets and services and to ensure their long-term sustainability.**

We have continued to work with communities, organisations and ‘friends’ groups to encourage and sustain greater community ownership of assets and services. There are currently 37 constituted Friends of Parks groups registered with the Council. The network of volunteers is a far-reaching and invaluable asset. Friends groups commit to promoting inclusive practice through their constitutions. Adults of all ages participate and also provide opportunities for children and young people. Vulnerable groups are also supported to participate (e.g. City of Sanctuary working with Friends of Ravenhill Park). There are currently approximately 630 volunteers who help run the 40 community buildings across Swansea East, Swansea West and the city centre.

Community Asset Transfers have been successfully undertaken in all three electoral constituencies across Swansea; Swansea East (Jersey Park Bowling Pavilion; Trallwn Sports Pitch and Pavilion), Swansea West (Gwent Amateur Boxing Club; Green Space at Y-Llwyni) and Gower (Graig Y Coed Playing Fields; Underhill Park). We have also entered into a Charter with Community / Town Councils (C/TC) which sets out the way in which they aim to work together for the benefit of local communities whilst recognising their respective responsibilities as statutory bodies.

**Respond to the Local Government & Elections Act 2021 and continue to modernise public engagement in local democracy and Council decision making through accessible meeting times, web broadcasting, electronic voting and e-petitions.**

During 2021/22, we have been working to implement the new duties on Local Authorities, as a result of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. Preparation work undertaken has included raising awareness and understanding of Part 6 of the Act, reviewing best practice on self-assessment, establishing a self-assessment steering group and establishing a corporate approach to self-assessment. We have also held Briefings with both Scrutiny and the Governance and Audit Committee on the new performance requirements. As a result of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, we have amended the Council’s Constitution to reflect change in the terms of reference, role and memberships and name of the Audit Committee to Governance & Audit. During 2021/22, we also established the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee and held two meetings – as required by the new legislation.

We have continued to work towards modernising public engagement in Council decision making. The Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 along with earlier Covid Regulations allowed all meetings to be held remotely during 2021/22. They are working well and developments are underway in the Guildhall Council Chamber and also in the Gloucester Room, which will be a significant step forward to assist with the Council’s commitment to multi-location meetings. Hybrid meetings have enabled both councillors and members of the public to participate in meetings when they are unable to be in physical attendance in the building i.e. whether for covid or other reasons. eVoting has been established for Council and for Cabinet Meetings (it is not required for the other Committees given their relative small size). Preparation for the creation of ePetitions has been undertaken and will be enacted as of May 2022. Public engagement has been encouraged with public questions at Cabinet, Council and Scrutiny. We have also put in place arrangements to extend voting for 16 to 17 year olds and qualifying foreign citizens. We are also preparing to develop a public participation strategy and work is underway in relation to an e-petitions scheme both of which will facilitate wider public engagement.

Overall, there is good evidence of effective work programmes, scrutiny meetings and activities, good levels of Councillor engagement, positive feedback internally and externally and increasing media coverage and public involvement. Cabinet Members have been held to account through a range of activities through the Scrutiny Programme Committee, Task & Finish Inquiry Panels, ongoing Performance Panels, and one-off Working Groups, including pre-decision scrutiny, with

recommendations made to Cabinet Members through letters and reports. The work of Scrutiny is transparent and accessible. Scrutiny agenda packs are available on the Council's 'agenda and minutes' webpage. Also, there are all scrutiny letters sent to Cabinet Members following meetings and responses.

**Continue to strengthen the Welsh language service and language services generally offered by the Council by providing basic language training for front-line staff.**

In June 2021, the Council published its annual Welsh Language report, highlighting examples of good work achieved alongside recommendations to strengthen Welsh Language promotion and compliance across the Council. Work has also been undertaken in relation to the development of a proposed framework for Welsh Language and we have recruited a Standards Officer to lead on promoting the Welsh Language and work with the Welsh Language Commissioner. We have established a Welsh Language Training Group which has identified training needs in support of the Welsh language. This has included the development of a mentoring scheme to support Welsh learners. Courses have been run at Mynediad Level 1 (years 1 and 2) and Sylfaen level 2 (year 1). During 2021/22, we also ran introductory "Taster" session has been run to encourage future participation and work is underway in relation to assessing the potential for "face to face" courses for non-IT User front-line staff. We have also continued to promote the Welsh Language and reviewed the Council website to improve access to information, online forms, and payments for residents and ensured the information is available in Welsh and English.

**Make community budgets available so that local people can decide together with their representatives what their local priorities are.**

During 2021/22 each Ward Member had a Community budget of £10,000 per annum to support the delivery of small local measures that are a priority for individual Councillors and their local community but are not funded by any other Council budgets. The scheme provided each Councillor with a budget currently set at £10,000 per annum and has been divided equally between all 72 elected Councillors to use on supporting initiatives within their Ward. Examples of work carried out include repairs to bus shelters, donations to their local schools or community charities, the installation of defibrillators in public places, repairs to minor footpath or road improvements, floral displays, tree planting, re-instating or providing extra street lights as well as a range of equipment in local parks.

**Provide the opportunity for local citizens to influence how policies are written and services are delivered through the development of a Corporate Co-production Strategic Framework and a revised Consultation and Engagement Strategy**

A draft revised Consultation and Engagement strategy has been produced; however consultation is ongoing in relation updating the strategy to reflect the lesson learnt from COVID-19. The strategy was informed by the Recovery and Future Generations Policy Development Committee and is closely aligned to the Council's Corporate Framework on Co-production. Good progress has been with the development and implementation of the Council's Regional Co-production strategy developed for Social Care. Work in underway to build upon this approach and to secure funding from the Economic Recovery fund to further develop our corporate approach to co-production and build capacity across the organisation.

We have continued to support public engagement in decision making through public questions at Cabinet, Council, Scrutiny and Policy Development Committees. The majority of Council meetings are open to the public and anyone living or working in Swansea can suggest a topic for scrutiny.

There are also opportunities for anyone to suggest questions, and submit views. We have a good social media presence and publish a monthly e-newsletter as well as maintain a public blog, improving public information and awareness of scrutiny and making it easier to connect with us.

The Consultation and Engagement Strategy is due to be adopted in the next few months which, when adopted, will provide services with greater clarity on the principles they need to follow when undertaking consultation and engagement. This should result in more opportunities for the public to shape council services and policies. During the coming 12 months we will work with Co-production Wales to develop and deliver a co-production strategy that can be adopted by all services. When adopted the strategy will provide clarity and opportunities to work with communities and groups in developing policies and services in a co-productive way.

### 3. What and how can we do better (now and for the long-term)?

Although good progress has been made with the delivery of our Transformation and Future Council priority, there remains a number of areas for improvement and development. The increase in demand for public services has resulted in an increase in demand for customer services. Although our Digital programme and the increased use of automation has produced some efficiencies and greater capacity, customer demand and the complexity of demand is increasing. The average number of calls and emails through the Council's call centre received per month during 2021/22 was over 15,000 and 6,000 respectively – an increase on the pre-pandemic levels. Responding to the pandemic has diverted resources to new activities and supporting customers in different ways. There is a need to review customer service delivery and standards and accelerate the development of a multi-skilled customer service team. Some customers still need support in using on-line channels and the development of Community Hubs across Swansea is a key priority over the coming year. Although the delivery of our Digital programme has made good progress as evidenced in relation to meeting key performance indicators and demonstrating greater efficiencies, challenges still remain in relation to staff capacity and staff retention in a highly competitive market. We also need to review the design and accessibility of online services, not only those belonging to the Council but nationally and those of our partners. Online services need to be easy to use for our residents, otherwise this increases demand into the Council's contact centre and libraries from people face-to-face and over the telephone. The aim would be to involve feedback from our service users in this review.

Looking to continuously improve, we will explore ways in which technology and automation can provide greater back-office efficiency, enhanced user experience and a more modern working environment for our workforce, both employee led and manager led. Our investment in the Oracle Fusion product for HR, Payroll and Finance functionality needs to be strategically reviewed and maximised where possible to ensure value for money and digital progress as the world of work continues to evolve and adapt. Providing all workforce groups with access to digital content relating to their employment is a future priority, as is a revised attraction and recruitment tool that enables us to promote Swansea as an employer of choice through a modern and tailored application process.

The Service Centre manually processes over 4000 workforce related changes each year, and recruitment activity has doubled to 1600 new hires per year since 2021. Improving electronic workflow, automation and licensing authority will enable us to reduce manual intervention and transform our service from a processing centre to a systems development function where monitoring, auditing and shaping the platform will provide value adding activity for the benefit of the workforce and our suppliers.

Our Workforce and Organisational Development strategy needs to address the recruitment and retention of staff in key areas which are critical to the future transformation and development of the Council. The Scrutiny Inquiry into Procurement that took place in 2021/22 found that good progress had been made but identified challenges still remain in terms of developing the approach to cover all areas of the Council’s procurement. More information on this can be found in Part 2 of the Review.

4. Conclusion - the extent to which the Council is exercising its functions effectively

A review of the evidence in relation to whether the Council is exercising its functions effectively in relation to its Transformation & Future Council priority suggests that it is owning its ambition.

<i>Well-being Objectives</i>	<i>Getting started</i>	<i>Making simple changes</i>	<i>Being more adventurous</i>	<i>Owning our ambition</i>	<i>Leading the way</i>
<i>Transformation &amp; Future Council development</i>				x	

This means that the Council is stepping out of a ‘business as usual’ mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.

We came to this conclusion because:

*Progress meeting the steps to deliver the Well-being Objective*

Overall good progress has been made with the delivery of our Transformation and Future Council priority. Our Achieving Better Together programme has achieved a high level of assurance from our Internal Audit and the majority of aligned plans and policies such as the Workforce and Organisational Development plan are making good progress and are on target.

Our Digital programme has enabled the transformation of many customer transactions and the delivery of services, ensuring our residents can access information and services in a timely and efficient way, at a time and in a place which suits their needs. The increased use of automation for standardised procedures has created additional capacity, freeing up staff time and resources. Our Digital Inclusion programme offers support to a range of different customers in different ways and settings to ensure that as many of people can benefit from the digital transformation of our services. Technology has also transformed our workplace, affording some employees greater agility in the workplace and the benefits from remote working, closer to residents and the communities they serve. This change has also enabled some employees to have a better work/life balance and or help with caring responsibilities and thus contributing to greater overall employee retention.

Overall, the Council put in place good arrangements to supports it workforce during the pandemic and through recovery. Scrutiny identified a number of examples of good practice in terms of supporting the well-being of staff through the expansion of the Helping Hands service, the development of Mental Health First aid tool kits and other preventative measures, which are currently being revised and tailored to other specific sectors of the workforce such as Education and Schools. Good progress has also been made with the development of the Workforce and

Organisational Development Strategy, the establishment of issue based working groups e.g. Equalities and investment and the restructuring of Human Resources, Organisational Development and Occupational Health functions.

During 2021/22, a detailed Scrutiny Inquiry into Procurement concluded that the Council's approach to procurement was good and had not only built on many years of good practice, such as the award winning Beyond Bricks and Mortar, but had also evolved to incorporate new sustainable procurement principles and had taken into account wherever possible wider Social Value Benefits and other potential benefits such as the Foundational Economy.

- See Part 2 – Areas for Continued Improvement

*Contributing to the achievement of all the national well-being goals.*

The Council is working to maximise its contribution to the national well-being goals when meeting its Transformation & Future Council well-being objective:

- *A prosperous Wales* – Supporting and training the Council's workforce to deliver transformed services that provides the most sustainable outcomes for residents.
- *A Resilient Wales* – The Managing the Present and Shaping the Future, Swansea Council – From Recovery to Transformation Strategy underpins our recovery from Covid-19 and aims in order to transform services, deliver better outcomes for residents and achieve financial sustainability with reduced carbon footprint.
- *A Healthier Wales* – Encourage greater community ownership of parks and work with 'friends of parks' organisations to ensure the long-term sustainability and control of parks and public spaces.
- *A more Equal Wales* – Providing the opportunity for local citizens to influence how policies are written and services are developed through the development of a co-production strategy.
- *A Wales of Cohesive Communities* – Making community budgets available so that local people can decide together with their representatives what their local priorities are.
- *A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language* – Continuing to strengthen the Welsh language service and language services generally offered by the Council by providing basic language training for front-line staff.
- *A globally responsible Wales* – Continue to modernise public engagement in democracy and Council decision making through accessible meeting times, web broadcasting, electronic voting and petitions.

*Working sustainably when taking steps to meet this Well-being Objective:*

The council is working sustainably in line with the following five ways of working when meeting its well-being objective to safeguard people from harm:

- *Addressing long-term challenges.* Our Achieving Better Together programme has moved from the 'refocus' phase of the programme, looking forward to meet internal and external challenges in the longer term. The development of our Workforce and Organisational Development Strategy the Council aims to address the predicted long term needs and gaps in the workforce and how this can be addressed. The Council's procurement work aims to find ways to support and nurture the local supplier community so it resilient in the longer term. Our digital programme aims to deliver more digital projects that help residents access services 24/7 through digital channels, whilst supporting the most vulnerable in the future.

Our approach to the Welsh Language aims to increase the number of Welsh speakers and promote the use of Welsh both across the Council and in communities by 2050.

- *Preventing problems from occurring or getting worse.* Our Achieving Better Together programme aims to prevent problems from escalating and has been designed to ensure the long term resilience and delivery of Council services. The development of our Workforce and Organisational Strategy has also been designed to anticipate workforce planning challenges e.g. recruitment and retention. Our Digital Inclusion approach aims to support residents get online and access a range of services and information at an early and prevent problems from escalating.
- *Integration – joining things up and avoiding duplication / conflicting priorities.* Our Achieving Better Together programme adopts a corporate cross-cutting approach to change and transformation and has not been developed in silo. The development of our Workforce and Organisational Development Strategy has been undertaken by working across all Directorates and has taken a corporate holistic view of the workforce, internal and external environments, partners and regulators. There is a close correlation many of the steps to deliver both the Council’s Corporate Plan and the Strategic Equality Plan. Our Digital programme flows from the Digital strategy which places technology as a key enabler of integration, reusing technologies across multiple services, resulting in economy of scale and avoiding duplication.
- *Working in partnership with others.* Our Achieving Better Together programme aims to learn from the best practice of other organisations and many of the projects involve multiple partners to deliver integrated outcomes. We have worked other local authorities and the Welsh Government to establish the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee to bring coherence to regional governance and deliver regional functions, including strategic development planning, regional transport planning and to promote economic well-being.
- *Involving people.* Our Achieving Better Together programme takes a user-centred design approach wherever possible, so that services reflect the needs of residents and / or staff. The development of our Workforce and Organisational Development Strategy has involved a wide range of staff, Trade Unions, Senior Managers and Councillors. Our procurement work has included a series of consultations with potential external suppliers to revise and develop our approach to procurement and relevant policies and guidelines. During the development of our Strategic Equality Plan we sought to involve people that reflect the diversity of our communities including those with protected characteristics.

### **Consultation outcome**

The council undertook a survey of the public, local businesses, Council staff and trade unions in 2021/22.

There was a low response rate to the survey – under 100 responses - despite the Council doing its best to publicise the survey, including sending direct emails to stakeholders. The low response rate to the survey might have affected confidence in the results.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that Swansea Council as a whole does its job effectively?

Almost 40% of respondents (39%  $n = 26$ ) agreed that as a whole Swansea Council did its job effectively. However a similar proportion 39% ( $n = 11$ ) disagreed that Swansea Council did its job effectively. A further 21% ( $n = 15$ ) neither agreed nor disagreed as to whether they thought Swansea Council did its job effectively.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agree or disagree that the Council has been is making good progress towards meeting its objectives; safeguarding people from harm, improving education and skills, transforming our economy and infrastructure, tackling poverty, maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and bio-diversity and the transformation and future Council development.

The largest proportion of participants agreed that we had made good progress in relation to transforming our economy and infrastructure (42%  $n = 30$ ), followed by maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and bio-diversity (38%  $n = 27$ ), and safeguarding people from harm (34%  $n = 14$ ). Almost a third of participants (32%  $n = 23$ ) thought that the Council has made good progress in relation to improving education and skills and just under a quarter (23%  $n = 16$ ) thought the Council has made good progress with transformation and the future Council development. The smallest proportion of people (20%  $n = 14$ ) thought that the Council had made good progress with tackling poverty.

#### Areas for continued improvement

- Look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process and improve response rates for the annual self-assessment.

#### **Conclusion to Part 1**

The Council is effectively delivering its functions. The evidence in Part 1 of this assessment shows that the extent to which it is delivering its functions is that it is **owning its ambition** in the delivery of its well-being objectives, which are the councils key priorities for delivery. This means that the Council is stepping out of a 'business as usual' mind-set and acting to change how things are currently done. It is signalling early progress to wider change with more parts of the Council and organisations becoming involved. The Council is taking more well-managed risks, reaching out to other sectors to make progress and collaborating on funding or staffing. The Council defines its approach as ambitious and staff work across sectors and help influence change.



## Part 2 – How the Council uses its Resources

The Council has a duty to the public to use its resources wisely. This means making economic, efficient and effective use of the resources at its disposal. In other words, providing value for money to the public; but it also means doing so in a way that is fair and sustainable so that services are available to all without compromising the needs of future generations.

When we talk about the ‘resources’ that are at the Council’s disposal, we are generally referring to the Councils budget, its workforce and its other assets, such as buildings. The Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively when:

- It is minimising the resources used (Economic).
- The intended results correspond to the actual results (Effective).
- There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).

These resources are used through the following areas:

- Financial Planning.
- Workforce Planning.
- Procurement.
- Performance Management (and benchmarking).
- Asset management.

This part of the Annual Review of Performance is an assessment on the extent to which the Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively. It will do so by critically reviewing and evaluating how these resources were used through financial and workforce planning, procurement, performance management and asset management. Part 1 of this assessment, which looks at how effectively the Council is delivering its functions, is also a measure of the effective use of resources, i.e. the extent to which the intended results correspond to the actual results and should also be read as such.

### How well and we doing and how do we know?

The Council undertook a self-assessment and assurance of the effectiveness of its use of resources and governance arrangements in place. The assessment looked at what arrangements were in place during 2021/22, how effective they were and the evidence.

	<b>Evidence &amp; effectiveness of delivery</b>	<b>Extent of evidence &amp; effectiveness</b>
1	Not in place	No evidence of effective delivery.
2	Limited application and effectiveness	Some evidence of application, but the effectiveness of delivery is limited.
3	Mixed Application and effectiveness	Mixed evidence of effective application, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence.
4	Strong Application and effectiveness	Clear evidence of effective application.
5	Embedded	Clear evidence of effective and embedded application

## The use of resources – strategy and vision

The Council’s self-assessment tested whether there is sufficient strategic planning in place to ensure the effective use of resources.

<b>Criteria</b>				
There are comprehensive plans / strategies in place for workforce, finance, procurement and assets. These plans are sustainable and contribute to the Council’s objectives.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

The Council has a Corporate Plan, which describes the Council’s six well-being objectives. The well-being objectives are the Council’s key priorities and are aimed at maximising the Council’s contribution to the national goals set by Welsh Government and to improving the well-being of the people of Swansea in a way that is sustainable and meets the needs of local people without compromising the interests of future generations.

The Council has a complimentary set of financial plans, including the Medium Term Financial Plan, Revenue Strategy and Capital Strategy, each aligned to providing a sustainable budget and revenue cash limits for directorates and services to deliver the Corporate Plan over the short, medium and long term. These then align to departmental service plans for delivery of the services to meet the objectives of the corporate plan – See Financial Planning section below for further details.

The Council developed a new Workforce Strategy for 2022 to 2027, which accounts for corporate and service level plans, council vision and key objectives. The strategy has been developed taking into consideration the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Council's Achieving Better Together Transformation Plan to support a workforce that is fit for the future and has the capability and capacity to deliver the Council's objectives. The workforce strategy will be monitored and reviewed for effectiveness against objectives following roll-out from April 2022 – see Workforce Strategy section below for further details.

The Council’s Procurement procedures follow the relevant rules set out in constitution. Sustainable procurement principles as set out within the revised Wales Procurement Policy Statement issued in March 2021 underpin the Council’s procurement practice. The Council’s procurement strategy was reviewed for effectiveness against intended objectives at scrutiny during 2021/22 – see Procurement section below for further details. The Council has an adopted Asset Management Strategy. Collaborative working is an increasing feature of how we manage our estate. The Local Property Board enables public bodies to work together to find solutions that safeguard assets for the benefit of our communities in the long term.

## Financial Management

Criteria				
There are robust mechanisms in place to deliver the budget with strong and effective budget monitoring and control.				
Budget setting and savings proposals are monitored to identify any adverse impact, including adverse impact on equality and on the well-being of current and future generations.				
Self-assessment				
1. Not in place	2. Limited Application and effectiveness	3. Mixed Application and effectiveness	4. Strong Application and effectiveness	5. Embedded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

Budgets are set at Council each year following an extensive budget setting process, which includes widespread public consultation. The Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2021/22 were approved by Council on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021. They continued to set out an ongoing ambitious programme of approved capital spending plans and future capital spending plans sustained by unsupported borrowing. At the time, there was continuing uncertainty surrounding the ongoing impact from COVID-19 on the scale of additional spending, the loss of income, and the funding arrangements for reimbursement in part, or in full, that the authority faced in responding to the pandemic.

The Revenue and Capital Budgets for 2022/23 were approved at Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 where the unsupported borrowing to fund the approved and future capital spending plans is now fully externalised at fixed rates for up to 50 years de-risking general fund exposure to future interest rate movements, though of course future investment and borrowing decisions will remain exposed to the now much higher interest rate environment. Existing commitments would require only modest budget savings to be delivered to help facilitate that major capital investment and economic regeneration stimulus; these plans are likely to still be affected by ongoing ripple effects of COVID-19. New investment decisions, requiring materially more expensive borrowing, will be consequentially significantly harder to achieve at the same time as the outlook for public finances in real terms, after inflation, has deteriorated very rapidly.

Once set, the budget is then monitored at a number of governance and assurance groups, committees and meetings. At a corporate level quarterly budget monitoring reports are produced for the Council's Corporate Management Team and Cabinet. These budget monitoring reports are scrutinised by senior management at monthly Performance & Financial Monitoring Meetings, at the Council's Service Improvement & Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel and at Governance & Audit Committee. Rigorous spending controls are in place as part of budget monitoring arrangements to contain, reduce, defer and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard to the existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service overspending and take corrective action.

The quarterly budget monitoring reports in 2021/22 consistently identified some service revenue budget overspends at year end, driven especially by Covid spending, albeit reducing throughout the year. Towards the year-end the pace and scale of reimbursement of costs and lost tax and service income from Welsh Government became increasingly clear and as a result at several verbal updates on third quarter position to Cabinet, Council, Governance & Audit Committee and scrutiny panels,

the S151 Officer advised an overall significant outturn underspend was expected. Total service underspending has now been confirmed (at just over £41m) and is an extremely good outcome. The net overall underspend at year end is the result of both the services forecast and planned underspending together with a number of late additional funding streams from the Welsh Government including Revenue Support Grant, Council Tax shortfall funding and the Cost of Living Support scheme for 2022-23 as a one off contribution which the two latter are included as part of "One off corporate costs/income".

Decisions on budget savings are taken by Cabinet and Council irrespective of the officer advice, which is weighed by Members when making decisions. Budget savings are subject to consultation with trade unions, staff and the public. All savings are documented, directorate budgets are frozen and savings are highlighted in officer financial advice. Savings targets are monitored and reviewed at the Reshaping and Budget Setting Board established as part of the Council's Achieving Better Together transformation strategy. In addition, monitoring and reviews at monthly Performance & Financial Monitoring meetings identify any issues with savings or income generation and puts corrective action in place. During 2021/22, as a result of COVID-19, the Council dis-continued the use of a tracking mechanism in order to monitor progress against the specific savings proposals contained within service and overall budgets proposals. The tracker was not completed during the various lockdowns and emergency response to the COVID 19 pandemic as part of pragmatic and practical reprioritisation of essential work (focus on outturn, closure, statement of accounts, maintaining supply lines for payroll, accounts payables, receivables and distribution of emergency grant aid). It is clear however that some additional compensating savings were made in year where specific savings had been delayed or had not been achieved. In addition, all directorates underspent in 2021/22 at outturn and so equal or equivalent value savings were delivered including some specifics. Savings tracking and the review of effectiveness will recommence in 2022/23.

Local Authorities have a corporate responsibility to operate within available resources and to remain financially sound over the short, medium and longer term. One of the key tools available to Authorities in managing its affairs is the creation and use of both General and Earmarked reserves to assist in delivering services over a period longer than one financial year. Borrowing and unplanned use of reserves is kept to a minimum in line with good governance. The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), via the Local Authority Accounting Panel, issued a bulletin in July 2014 (LAAP 99) intended to give guidance to Local Authorities on the management and review of reserves; this bulletin is considered best practice in terms of Local Authority financial administration and effectively must be followed. Within the existing statutory and regulatory framework, it is the responsibility of Chief Financial Officers to advise Local Authorities about the level of reserves that should be held and to ensure there are clear protocols for their establishment and use. Reserves should not be held without a clear purpose. It is the duty of the Chief Financial Officer to specifically report on the robustness of estimates and reserves when the Council considers its budget requirement; as such the Revenue Budget approved by Council in March 2021 made specific references to the adequacy of reserves at that time. Notwithstanding that specific statutory requirement, it is the duty of the Chief Finance Officer to regularly review the position regarding available reserves. This is monitored through Corporate Management Team, Cabinet, Governance & Audit Committee and Scrutiny as part of corporate overview when reporting on budgets and the Medium Term Financial Plan. In addition, any changes to reserves is reported through the appropriate committee / Cabinet.

The written report on the Review of Reserves was presented to Council on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021, which provided a strategic and focussed assessment of the current year's financial performance and an update on strategic planning assumptions over the next 3 financial years. The conclusion of the Statement was that the Council could potentially struggle to deliver within the overall resources

identified to support the budget in 2022/23 and beyond unless the local government settlement was much enhanced and preferably multi-year. The quantum was duly confirmed much enhanced by March 2022 and pleasingly was a three year settlement albeit heavily front loaded then dropping off significantly. The effects of this significant dropping off in cash terms will be magnified substantially by much higher than expected inflation, higher than expected pay awards, higher borrowing costs, and potentially fixed or now even lower cash support from government. The likely projected outturn was dependent upon the ability of the Council to reduce and restrict ongoing expenditure across all areas, its ability to recover expenditure and lost income from Welsh Government and continued reliance on active capital financing strategies to maximise the short term savings to enable the capital equalisation reserve to be bolstered for the medium to long-term, recognising the major future capital commitments already irrevocably made by Council decisions on the size of the capital programme and associated borrowing.

The report to Council in October 2021 reviewing reserves proposed no additional transfers, at that time, between reserves to those highlighted in the quarterly monitoring reports. Based on the net Revenue position arising out of the actual final outturn position, however, the equally fully planned substantial continued underspending on capital financing and contingency, central inflation and other corporate items including additional Welsh Government Covid grants has enabled sums to be added to the recovery reserve, the capital equalisation reserve, the general reserve and some to be carried forward once again on contingency, which is a prudent way of planning for and addressing some of, the future certain increased costs of financing the ambitious mid-term capital programme and the uncertainty of COVID-19. The Section 151 Officer in the same report stated that it was his opinion that there is no scope within General reserves to fund any additional expenditure of the Council given the current risks facing the Council in terms of ongoing spending pressures, inflation and the uncertainty of the real terms value of future Welsh Government funding streams. That means that all spending must otherwise continue to be wholly contained within existing budgets or met by the specific and already very substantial earmarked reserves set up as part of the outturn report.

All budget proposals and budget savings are subjected to an Integrated Impact Assessment and there is extensive consultation with the public, trade unions and council staff. Integrated impact assessments (IIAs) are a legal requirement within both the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being and Future Generation Act 2015 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure. The IIA assesses budget and savings proposals to examine whether there is a risk that they would affect any person or persons adversely. Swansea Council's IIA has been enhanced to take into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

It is known from previous years that, due to the scale of budget reductions, those with protected characteristics are likely to be affected. In assessing the impact of the budget proposals, the Council continues to attempt to ensure that any effect is not disproportionate and that there is a continued focus on mitigation wherever possible. In this context the following should be noted: where IIAs show potential significant impact with no possible mitigation, these proposals are referred for further consideration; for those IIAs where potential significant impact has been identified and mitigation has been possible, the associated action plans are monitored and reviewed. The Council continues to deliver a wide range of services for all the citizens of Swansea. Many of these are of particular benefit to the areas covered by our IIA process. The Council is committed to protecting the vital frontline services that matter most to the people of Swansea, tackling poverty and looking after the most vulnerable in our communities. The Council will continue to do everything it can to meet this challenging commitment given the financial constraints it faces. However, services may be

provided in a different way in line with the ‘Swansea – Achieving Better Together’ transformation strategy.

Areas for continued improvement

- Continue to contain, reduce, defer and delay spending as far as possible, having due regard to the existing agreed budget and political priorities to nonetheless seek to limit service overspending and take corrective action.
- Re-establish tracking (suspended as a result of Covid) to ensure that savings targets are monitored and reviewed at the Reshaping and Budget Setting Board established as part of the Council’s Achieving Better Together transformation strategy.

**Procurement**

<b>Criteria</b>				
The procurement strategy and approach seek to maximise the social, economic, environmental and cultural impact of spending decisions.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

The Council spends some £290 million a year on a diverse range of goods, works and services from our external partner organisations. The Councils response to Covid 19 not only met the challenge of sourcing essential PPE and other supplies effectively, working to support the Council’s care infrastructure – both our suppliers and workforce - and Neath Port Talbot Council, but also assisted departments in accessing Covid relief grants, prepared a large range of contract variations due to the massive disruption caused by Covid-19, and so supported our social care and regeneration throughout.

Important changes that assisted in responding to the pandemic, but which also create a more robust and sustainable service, include the a new low value self-service procurement process, with pack and guide for departments to self-manage low value contracts and the introduction of DocuSign software, which (for example) enables electronic contracts to be issued and signed by suppliers direct. This has resulted in 24,000 less pages being printed in Commercial Services alone with associated benefits and enabled the critical continuity of service during the pandemic.

Sustainable procurement principles as set out within the revised Wales Procurement Policy Statement issued in March 2021 underpin the Council’s procurement practice. Procurement officers work with services at the earliest stages of the procurement process so specifications can be developed by managers that consider value-for-money on a whole-life basis (costs relating to maintenance, disposal and consumables are taken into account). This includes work undertaken on a Procurement Guidance Document on The Well-being of Future Generations Act and Procurement, which provides practical advice to staff ensuring they consider the Sustainable Development Principle at the earliest opportunity. Supplier Suitability Questionnaires also include a section on sustainability focusing on environmental issues, but also address equalities and safeguarding in addition to more traditional technical and economic criteria. This social value work, which includes a

focus on the development of local suppliers, is a key development piece for the Service and a new model of social value consideration is being developed, working with the WLGA and Welsh Government, with further details below.

Beyond Bricks and Mortar is an award winning initiative led by the Place Directorate, which secures social benefits from construction and regeneration activity across sectors in the City & County of Swansea for the lasting benefits of the community. Our Community Benefit Policy has broadened this approach to encompass all Council procurement projects. This makes the most of opportunities to achieve added value and to maximise contribution to the Well-being Goals as a result of public sector spending in Swansea. Additional steps have also been taken towards integrating a circular economy approach with a review undertaken with WRAP, working with Commercial Services.

The Council has modified its Constitution to place greater emphasis on using local suppliers to meet our need for goods, services and works by ensuring local companies are invited to bid for certain projects; and we have also sought to maximize the value of the Swansea Pound through the development of the Foundational Economy. The Council also took part in Welsh Government's pilot to develop the Foundational Economy, working on issues related to local procurement and focusing on the construction sector. A pilot approach to the design and specification of contracts for the Council has allowed small businesses to bid for public contracts and increase the amount of money spent locally by the Council. The pilot focused on changing the procurement approach for 3 construction based contracts; the learning from that process is being used to change the overall procurement strategy within the Council. The 'Foundations for Local Success' seeks to develop contracts with local suppliers to supply and install Solar PVs, supply and install air source heat pumps and undertake external environmental works.

Ongoing initiatives are being carried out in conjunction with the External Funding Programme Officer to encourage more local SMEs to tender for work for the Council. This entails speaking to local contractors to establish any perceived barriers to them tendering, splitting contracts into smaller lots to be more attractive and relevant to SMEs and simplifying documentation.

The Council is currently working to further embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act into all Council procurement. As an example, an exercise was carried out on the More Homes Parc yr Helyg contract to establish the distance from site of all the suppliers and sub-contractors that were utilised on the project; and we are working to review how we can further embed additional social value, creating an enhanced system to integrate such value. Whilst the Council seeks to give sufficient weight to biodiversity, natural environment and culture and health considerations, further consideration is being given to how this approach can be expanded in line with social value principles.

In addition to the inclusion of community benefits and social value clauses in our contracts, the Council has also been working to ensure that potential consultants and contractors evidence commitment to, and have company policies in-place for: Modern Slavery, Equal Opportunities, the Welsh Language and Safeguarding (Cohesive Communities). We have continued to host Meet the Buyer events and Swansea hosted the first virtual MTB event of its kind in Wales, paving the way for other Local Authorities to follow suit using the model that Swansea created with the Welsh Government funded portal for all procurement opportunities in Wales known as Sell 2 Wales.

The Council held a scrutiny inquiry into procurement during 2021/22. The inquiry looked into how the Council is meeting its duties under legal frameworks and to ensure it is working to procure locally, ethically and greenly whilst being cost effective and transparent in its processes. The Panel was satisfied that procurement is clearly built into the Council's recovery planning moving forward,

with its procurement activity aligned to the Council's key objectives. The inquiry did recommend that Cabinet develops a mechanism for measuring the impact of spending on policy commitments in relation to, for example, social benefit, local procurement, natural environment and climate change. It also recommended that Cabinet works with the Welsh Local Government Association to press the Welsh Government to develop ways for the impact of key national commitments to be measured across Wales and the sharing of procurement good practice across Wales.

The Inquiry recognised that a vast array of procurement activity takes place across the many Council services and therefore wanted to ensure that the Council is getting the best spend from the public purse. This should include not only value for money but in the quality of services or items we procure. The Panel were satisfied that part of the central procurement team's role was ensuring that value for money is achieved and that purchasing power is optimised between quality and cost when procurement activities are undertaken. The Inquiry was pleased to find that getting best value for money in procurement is not just restricted to getting the lowest price and that the Council evaluates tenders and quotations based upon set evaluation criteria that depend on each contract and that can be by price/cost, quality or by price/cost and quality.

The Inquiry highlighted the longer term and therefore unknown impacts of leaving the European Union on the cost and availability of materials as well as on the workforce locally, which have been compounded by the Covid pandemic; the Inquiry emphasised the importance of continuing to consider and monitor this risk.

The Inquiry considered that evidence suggests that in Swansea there is clear commitment to, and development of, the local economy with support for local suppliers being evident for a number of years. The Panel heard that the Beyond Bricks and Mortar initiative was developed back in 2009 with a view to securing added benefits from regeneration projects led by the Council. These take the form of community benefits derived from suppliers and are articulated through contracts. Such community benefits include identifying training opportunities and apprenticeships, the development of more local supply chains and wider community benefits, e.g. engagement with schools, colleges and participation in community events.

The Inquiry was told that the Council regularly reviews its processes so that it can get the balance right between probity and procedure and not having unnecessary barriers to some smaller contractors. The Leader, Councillor Rob Stewart told the Inquiry that the localism aspect will continue to be a key focus in order to ensure the monies we spend stay as local as possible and it is a key aspect of the Council's procurement strategy. The Panel heard about 'meet the buyer' events that are held to encourage engagement from providers on main Council contracts and to support market development. The Panel would like to see the number of open days expanded to encourage local firms to tender for council works and encourage supplier feedback. They also felt that the events could be done in a number of ways depending on the requirements of, for example, the contract and could include for example contract and/or trade specific events, roadshows and webinars etc. It was recognised that local businesses are not always aware of potential open days or events, so the Council needs to develop and maintain direct links with local businesses including developing appropriate communication channels to alert them of up-coming procurement opportunities. The Inquiry welcomed the new supplier guide for potential suppliers that has been developed to assist with the understanding of the Council procurement processes. The Inquiry heard that the Council has also updated its external website to improve supplier engagement and access to information. The Inquiry recognised the improvements made in this area but emphasised the need to continue to review documentation and contract design regularly to further encourage small and medium-size businesses to tender for council works.



Whilst excellent work is being done in Swansea in improving community benefit and local procurement, the Inquiry hoped pending changes in legislation will allow Councils to build upon this local procurement activity; that we consider how we work with the third sector, especially the smaller organisations, and the difficulties they may experience should be recognised and considered in our procurement process were possible. The Inquiry heard the regulation and policy relating to procurement is about to go through a period of significant change with an expected reform of the UK Public Contract Regulations; this may allow more flexibility for the Council to consider, for example, enhanced social value criteria. The Inquiry also heard that the impact of the UK Government's Procurement reform is currently an unknown factor; the published Green Paper indicated the removal of the light touch regime from the new rules, which may put additional pressure on the Council's procurement resources and that these should be reviewed accordingly.

The Inquiry heard Swansea Council is committed to 'A more equal Wales', this being a society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstance. The Equality Act 2010 requires purchasers to ensure they do not discriminate in the provision of goods or services. The Inquiry was reassured to hear compliance with the Act is embedded in all the Council's tender documentation and frameworks. This includes the frameworks used for contractors which set out clear requirements to evidence commitment to, and maintenance of, policies for both equal opportunities, as well as for community benefits/social value, modern slavery, Welsh language and safeguarding.

Evidence to the Inquiry suggests there is a Council vision in relation to environmental and ethical practice with aims and objectives within the Council's corporate plans, which are acted upon daily in departmental procurement activities. The Inquiry was satisfied that there was good environmental and ethical practice in place, which could be built upon and embedded further. This included considering how the Council's approach to social value, localism, biodiversity and the natural environment could be further integrated and expanded in line with key principles and the current Council pilot reviewing this matter; investigating how the impact of a contract's carbon footprint can be measured, and; increasing the use of nature-based solutions in the Council's procurement practice.

The Panel was pleased to see evidence that suggests the Council does indeed work across departments, with its partners and others in the pursuit of benefits from economies of scales, achieving efficiencies in the use of resources whilst in some cases being able to realise savings. The Inquiry were pleased to hear the positive comments from Swansea Council for Voluntary Service about how the Compact arrangements are becoming a strong forum for the third sector. The Inquiry wanted to see this expanded further and the good practice learnt shared and used elsewhere in the Council where appropriate.

The Inquiry were of the view that effective procurement needs a good framework for monitoring performance and measuring success essential for continuous improvement. The Inquiry was keen to see the information collected and then reviewed and used to continually improve.

#### Areas for continued improvement

- Respond to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Inquiry into procurement - including a focus on enhanced social value considerations in procurement in line with new legislation that the UK and Welsh Governments are developing (once that legislation is published and its impact becomes known), to include considerations of sustainable development, development of the local supplier base and co-production activity, i.e. involving citizens in decision-making, and also a focus on any areas of non-compliance in procurement activity.

## Workforce Planning

<b>Criteria</b>				
A workforce strategy enabling a workforce that is fit for the future, flexible and resilient and with sufficient capability and capacity to meet current and future demands.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

Emergency structures were established and resources prioritised towards Covid-19 activities during the pandemic whilst also having to sustain many business-as-usual activities. Staff, in the main, have returned to their substantive roles as services have resumed although it is recognised that there may be a requirement for further workforce activities in the event of future Covid disruption.

A Workforce Working Group was established in 2021 to support the governance arrangements and review this, which culminated in reports presented in March 2021 and an update report in February 2022.

Prior to the pandemic Swansea Council had already begun the successful implementation of an agile working strategy. This enabled an almost seamless transition to working from home for the vast majority of staff during Covid. A revised agile working policy gives greater power to the employee to work in a flexible manner, whilst ensuring the needs of the business continue to be met. This is now informing decisions on the future accommodation strategy, which will continue to see a reduction in the office estate but ensuring flexibility to meet the needs of the evolving hybrid working model. The Scrutiny Working Group heard that staff who found this difficult were supported and that managers have retained regular contact with their staff through team and one-to-one meetings. Lots of information has been provided on working from home and up-to-date equipment has been provided. The Scrutiny Working Group were also pleased that information on how to claim money back from the tax office for working from home is made readily available to staff in various ways.

In the first nine months of the 2020/21 and up to December 2021, headcount and FTE had increased in all Directorates, mainly as a result of the pandemic. This included an increase in traineeship roles (especially in Waste Management), additional TTP (Test, Trace, Protect) and vaccination-line staff recruitment, school catering and cleaning staff and social care staff, including social workers; recruitment and retention in social services remains a challenge. The Scrutiny Working Group heard that a recruitment and development policy has been developed for Social Services, which is not just about pay but also about using different channels for recruitment, working on staff morale and offering a healthy work/life balance and flexibility.

The pandemic did not have any significant impact on the age or gender profile of the workforce. The age profile remains skewed to the 40 to 59 year age brackets; this will be addressed through the new workforce strategy. Excluding Chief Officers, Heads of Service, Soulbury and centrally employed teachers, 60% of posts are occupied by women, 40% occupied by men. The numbers in grades 5 and 6 are almost equal. The only grades with more men than women are Grade 7 and Grade 12 (but it is almost equal split).

The Scrutiny Working Group heard that the use of agency workers in some circumstances had increased during the pandemic. Officers stated that there will always be a need for some agency staff to cover sickness in essential services, but measures are being taken to reduce the numbers of agency workers and they will have the opportunity to apply for traineeship roles and other roles if they desire. The Scrutiny Working Group also heard that the Governance and Audit Committee has been assured that line managers are complying with the agency workers policy and that this is being regularly reviewed.

Specific dedicated resource is now in place to support managers in the management of sickness absence cases. The number of working days/shifts per full time equivalent lost due to sickness absence improved from 11.85 to 9.23 in 2020/21 but has increased to 12.66 in 2021/22 due to Covid and stress related absences. Additional resources has been provided to human resources & organisational development and occupational health to support and advise in managing sickness cases. During the pandemic the Occupational Health and Stress Management and Counselling services continued to be delivered remotely to support the workforce, in line with national guidance. The Scrutiny Working Group heard that the occupational health team is being strengthened with extra funding being made available.

The occupational health corporate action plan for 2022/23 aims to recruit more Helping Hands Volunteers across the Authority. In addition, they are working with the Education Directorate to provide a physiological support pilot, increased access to counselling, a specialist website and network of volunteers (Helping Hands Model) across all schools. It is also the intention to source Stress Management Advisors & Counsellors to deliver: mandatory Mental Health First Aid Training days for Managers per annum; Stress Risk Assessment sessions and reports; Employee Health and Wellbeing training days; a proactive range of prevention workshops and activities to reduce stress and improve employee wellbeing through the Helping Hands Service within available resources; Menopause Support Cafes; Health fairs per annum to improve wellbeing, awareness and provide signposting to specialist services.

During the course of 2021/22 a Staff Survey was undertaken. 993 people completed the survey providing a 14% response, which is 10% less compared with a 24% response rate last time. This drop in response rate could be the result of more staff working from home and feeling less connected to the Council. It could also be a result of workload issues as we recover from the pandemic. Measures to increase the response rate to future surveys will need to be explored. Meetings with the trade union representatives took place to discuss the low response rate to the survey and get their views on how this could be improved in the future. Staff were asked to rate their wellbeing before and after Covid: 57% said they were happy, contented, relaxed compared to 63% prior to Covid. The results also revealed: a huge shift to home working as a result of the pandemic, which is to be expected; that some measures need to be put in place to increase staff confidence in returning to work in the office/on-site; 96% compared to 92% in 2020/21 felt trusted to do their job. Overall the number of staff who state they have experienced harassment, bullying or abuse had decreased compared to the last survey.

The Scrutiny Working Group were also pleased to hear that human resources functions will be brought together under one Head of HR and Service Centre. The Workforce Strategy has 4 Key Themes and 9 Key Strands. Underneath each Strand there are a series of agreed activities with key milestones and success criteria identified. The Strategy contains a specific Strand on "Workforce Development" and progress has already been made on activities, such as the development of a coaching framework. A coaching framework has been developed to give opportunity for staff to undertake coaching and mentoring and help re-enforce good practice and development. The

Leadership Hub has been rebranded to “Let’s Talk” and offers staff an opportunity to hear from leaders and learn about leadership, values and behaviours in a safe environment. The Authority has co-produced training and development opportunities with Gower College and supporting the development of apprenticeships in areas across the council, to help grow our own workforce. The Scrutiny Working Group heard that the workforce strategy includes a specific Strand on “Equality in the Workplace”, which has seen the establishment of a Workforce Equalities Group to progress and deliver on improvements to workforce equalities issues. A further key strand on “Supporting our Workforce” will deliver on and monitor improvements to workforce wellbeing issues.

The Workforce Strategy has been developed following thorough consultation with elected members, leadership teams, Trade Unions and employees and has accounted for corporate and service level plans, council vision and key objectives. Following receipt of the Staff Survey results, Focus Groups were held with Trade Union Representatives and a cross-section of employees on each of the Key Themes. There were also consultation sessions with elected members through the Equalities & Future Generations Policy Development Committee. The key messages from these exercises were as follows:

- Employees welcomed the engagement and want more of it.
- The Key Themes and Strands identified in the Workforce Strategy are the right ones.
- There was a recognised need for the Council’s Principles, Values and Behaviours to be reviewed and refreshed.
- Workforce Planning was seen to be key to the development of the future workforce, particularly in succession planning.
- There was need for consistency in applying good leadership practices across the Council.
- Better and more consistent performance and development discussions need with staff.
- The opportunity should be taken to seek cross-Council efficiencies in organisational structure.
- Pay and grading was a key issue in that we were not competitive or attractive and the current job evaluation scheme needed to be replaced.
- Recruitment practices and processes would be improved. We don’t sell ourselves well.
- Greater investment and consistency needed in Learning & Development provision.
- Recognised need for investment in health and wellbeing- not pro-active enough during Covid.
- Greater engagement need with equalities communities.

All of these comments are being taken into consideration in development of the Workforce Strategy.

Areas for continued improvement

- Respond to the key messages from engagement exercises and finalise the Workforce Strategy.
- Seek to improve the number of responses to the staff survey.
- Reduce staff sickness.

**Asset Management**

<p><b>Criteria</b></p> <p>Assets are managed and utilised to maximise the economic, efficient and effective use of resources to achieve aims and objectives and maximise social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being now and in the future.</p>
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Self-assessment				
1. Not in place	2. Limited Application and effectiveness	3. Mixed Application and effectiveness	4. Strong Application and effectiveness	5. Embedded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

A new Asset Management Plan 2021/25 was adopted at Council on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. The new plan represents a corporate approach to asset management and is a development of the previous Asset Management Plan that covered an extended 4-year period 2017/21. The Asset Management Plan is underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and it supports the delivery of the Council's well-being objectives in its corporate plan. Assets will be managed for the long-term benefit of people and communities and they will be involved in decisions on their use.

The key aspects of the Asset Management Plan are contained within 6 priorities.

- Corporate Landlord
- Disposals
- Property Investments
- Regeneration and Economic Development
- Capital Programme
- Collaboration

The Council has made significant progress in each of these 6 priorities over the last 4 years and the new Asset Management Plan maps out how they will be taken forward over the next 4 years. The Council continues to hold a large and varied portfolio of considerable value, but also, in practice, a considerable liability. The financial position of the Authority continues to be one of expected longer term constraint of capital and revenue but opportunities will continue to be maximised to take forward asset usage, transformation and investment in the nearer term relying on especially advantageous rates of borrowing, resilient specific reserves, grant funding and partnership opportunities. The Council's wider portfolio assists the wider Capital Programme, but also has continued liability of capital investment. The revenue budget is assisted with the income producing assets raising for the Council circa £7.4m, but there remains a challenge over the ongoing reduction of the revenue commitments for the wider operational portfolio. As a result of the disposal of larger sites temporarily on hold pending decision on appropriation of sites to the HRA to enable the More Homes Project, there is likely to be an affect profiling capital receipts in the short term within the disposal programme.

### Corporate Landlord

In recent years the roll-out of the Agile Working Programme has created a flexible workforce and as a consequence the Council has been able to decrease their footprint within the Civic Centre. The current pandemic has intensified the pace of these new ways of working and as a result has decreased the need for traditional office space longer-term. This reduction in space has allowed the Council to capitalise on commercial opportunities and accommodate tenants, providing significant financial benefits. It has been important to be able to accommodate many of these tenants since the current proposal is that they will relocate with the Council to a new Public Sector Hub, making the business case for a new development more feasible.

The focus of the accommodation strategy for the next 12 months will be to complete the roll out of Agile working at the Guildhall in line with the revised agile working policy and continue to explore commercial opportunities in the Civic Centre. In addition, there will be the development of Public Sector and Community Hubs within the city centre to potentially house the library, family history and Archives along with an employability hub and the Council's contact elements currently in the Civic Centre.

#### Disposals

The Council's approach to disposals has been to take a commercial approach, maximising returns whilst also supporting the Council's 'More Homes' initiative to build more Council housing. The primary activity involves providing greater certainty over expected capital receipts and to ensure maximising returns and minimised delays in completion. Additional disposals have been targeted through the identification of relevant sites within the deposit draft LDP and working up the stage feasibility and site investigations to enable timetabled disposal within a four-year programme. The wider universal review identified a number of smaller scale opportunities, which whilst producing lower capital receipts, will also reduce revenue commitments.

Further planned improvement will be to investigate, report and agree the opportunity for the council to act as developer, which whilst removing some sites from the disposal programme, will add value through the recovery of any developer's profit.

#### Property Investments

A major piece of work undertaken related to the independent review undertaken by JLL, which validated the current approach with regards to the investment portfolio. The main findings of the report were that the current estate management strategy was sound and demonstrated large areas of good practice. This review also identified a property investment fund be created to maximise the Council's strategic position. The creation of a fund, building on the knowledge of the Swansea property market coupled with the ability to borrow at beneficial rates, would place the Council in an advantageous position. This has been set up and good progress has been made in identifying opportunities and progressing negotiations. Since its inception in 2017, the Council has acquired three investment properties at a cost of £8m whilst returning £660k of annual income. All investments purchased to-date exceed the cost of borrowing and provide a net contribution to the overall revenue budget. Now that the investment model is proven, a review of the initial £5m mandate is required so that the Council can pursue larger lot sizes which can often yield better returns.

#### Regeneration & Economic Development

Copr Bay works have continued to make significant visible progress. Work has been completed on the construction of a 3,500 capacity arena alongside the completion of the Copr Bay site. The Ambassador Theatre Group has been awarded the contract to operate the Arena. The new bridge over Oystermouth Road, a new MSCP and the 1.1-acre coastal park have also opened to the public. Other components of the scheme, including the residential block, North MSCP, and church hall are all significantly advanced and nearing practical completion.

Works have also now commenced on the Kingsway Employment Hub building to construct a major new high-tech office development that will provide space for 600 jobs in Swansea city centre. Set for completion in early 2023, the five-storey development will include 114,000 square feet of commercial floorspace, providing flexible co-working and office opportunities for innovative tech, digital and creative businesses. The development will be carbon zero and worth £32.6 million a year to Swansea's economy. It will feature state-of-the-art digital connectivity, a roof terrace, greenery and balconies overlooking the city centre and Swansea Bay.

Substantial progress has also been achieved at the Hafod Copperworks Powerhouse project with shell and core works completion targeted for July 2022. The iconic Musgrave Engine House has been restored and Vivian Engine House repairs are underway. Work has also continued on the 110 year old Bascule Bridge working closely with Cadw. The historic but derelict Palace Theatre was acquired by the Council both saving a part of Swansea's heritage and acting as a regeneration catalyst for the Upper High Street; grant funding was secured and design and refurbishment works are underway. The innovative digital workspace will offer a home for growing businesses in the tech, digital and creative sectors; Heads of Terms have already been signed with the lead tenant Tramshed Tech.

### Capital Programme

There has been a significant increase in the budget allocation both from within the Council and from Welsh Government which has resulted in a reduction in the backlog maintenance for education establishments. In 2018 Faithful & Gould advised that the Education backlog maintenance figure was approximately £43 million; over the last 3 years circa £15 million has been spent on educational properties indicating the current backlog maintenance figure is approximately £30 million. Similarly the Housing Capital maintenance budget has increased year-on-year allowing the authority to concentrate on the issues of homelessness, climate emergency and decarbonisation. All projects within Band A of the QEd/Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme and three projects (the new PRU and two Welsh-medium primary school builds) from Band B have been delivered. A Welsh-medium secondary is due for completion in May 2022, and an English-medium secondary by May 2023 to ensure more learners benefit from schools of a 21st century learning standard that are in good condition and with suitable buildings and appropriate outdoor spaces.

As of February 2021, the backlog maintenance within Swansea Council assets is in the region of £211M. Projects will be selected on a priority basis. The criteria for selection (unless otherwise stated) were based upon condition rating, legislative compliance, health and safety indications, likelihood of failure and business continuity. The Asset Management Group will review and inform the emerging Capital Strategy.

### Collaboration

The work of the Council has seen the co-location of Housing/Library Services in Gorseinon; a trial of Clydach Hub identified lessons learnt to inform the new City Centre Community Hub. The Council acts as lead body for Ystadau Cymru in Swansea Bay; and Community Hub and Public Sector Hub opportunities are being promoted to ensure landmark collaborative schemes.

Next stages include the formalisation of the Community Asset Transfer Policy and continued negotiation around ongoing CATs. The co-ordination of the Local Property Board, as part of the Ystadau Cymru initiative to ensure linkages with the vision, remains to ensure sustainable and improved access to Council services using existing local assets "differently"; this is helping empower citizens to provide and support them in what they need within their community. This includes the completion of the City Centre Community Hub to inform the model and branding for a network of Community facilities tailored to meet the specific needs of those communities. All buildings identified will be operated within the adopted Community Hub model to be effective within the life of the Asset Management Plan. A review of the CAT policy will also take place to ensure it is aligned with the land transaction rules.

### Covid-19

On the 15th October 2020, Cabinet approved the strategy on the initial re-mobilisation of the Council and the immediate priorities from the COVID-19 crisis, the longer term plan from recovery to framework to replace Sustainable Swansea Strategy with Swansea – Achieving Better Together.

Many aspects of the Asset Management Plan 2021/25 will ensure continue support for resilience within Council Services with a particular emphasis on the built environment and the regeneration of the wider economy. Changes will be needed to react to the challenges of the uncertainty, in particular around the economy and the local financial position.

As a result of the COVID pandemic, the Council’s commercial rents dropped significantly during the period 2020/21, which was primarily due to the volatility within the local property market and the general inability for tenants to trade. In order to support its tenants, the Council offered financial support during this period (for qualifying tenancies) in the form of rent-free periods to ensure tenant failure & associated voids were minimised, whilst also trying to protect jobs for the local economy. The Council’s financial stimulus resulted in an overall reduction in income received from the commercial property portfolio but was necessary to protect long term income streams. Although the immediate risks have been mitigated, the short/medium term impacts of COVID are still relatively unknown and therefore it is very difficult to forecast the impact this may have until the market has an opportunity to recover. As a significant amount of the Council’s commercial portfolio is leased on a long-term basis, the revenue it receives through the Head lease gearing/turnover is not within the Council’s immediate control and therefore it is anticipated that the level income will likely fluctuate for the foreseeable future.

Climate Change

In June 2019, Swansea Council declared a climate emergency. In response to this a programme of activity is being developed to support the delivery of Net Zero Carbon Council by 2030 and Net Zero Swansea by 2050. In order to achieve net zero by 2030 the council needs to reduce or offset its current total emissions which equate to 27,500TCo2 for 2019/20. This includes: Council Buildings – the Energy Strategy and Carbon Management Action Plan, approved by Cabinet on the 19th November 2020, details initiatives to support the net zero carbon journey e.g. increase the pace and scale of the Re:Fit Cymru programme, with the provision of available resource and finance; a commitment to construct and build new schools and future civic buildings to net carbon zero. The combined effect of these two commitments could equate up to a 20% reduction in emissions equivalent to 20% or 4000T Co2. The intention of increasing tree cover and other measures as part of the council’s biodiversity plan, such as the installation of a new green infrastructure, will also support the offsetting of carbon emissions.

Areas for continued improvement

- Implement the Asset Management Plan 2021/25 and monitor and report on progress.

**Performance Management**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There are a complimentary set of corporate and service-level plans and strategies in place which set out a Council vision and key objectives				
Performance targets and outcomes to deliver corporate and service aims and objectives are identified and measured with democratic oversight to drive improvement actions				
Performance and outcomes are benchmarked with appropriate comparators to ensure value for money and continuous improvement.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>



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**Evidence**

The City & County of Swansea published its corporate plan in 2017 as required by the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which included a summary of its well-being statement and key priorities, known as ‘Well-being Objectives’; the corporate plan has been refreshed each year since then. The council’s corporate plan describes the steps being undertaken to meet our Well-being Objectives and contribute to the seven national well-being goals outlined in the Act.

The Plan also sets out how we are maximising our contribution to our Well-being Objectives and national goals through the way in which we work, which is in line with sustainable principles as follows:

- Looking ahead to the medium and long-term challenges.
- Preventing problems from occurring or from getting worse.
- Ensuring our objectives do not contradict each other and complement those of other public bodies.
- Working in partnership with others.
- Involving local people.

Our corporate plan demonstrates that all of our Well-being Objectives taken together and the steps that we are undertaking to deliver them shows our contribution to all seven national goals and to the social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being of Swansea and Wales.

Our contribution to the national goals and well-being of Swansea and Wales is not just expressed in our corporate plan. The corporate plan describes our key Well-being Objectives and contribution but it forms part of our wider Performance Improvement Framework, which includes departmental Service Plans; the Corporate Plan taken together with Service Plans describes our full contribution.

Performance is measured via corporate performance monitoring reports. Quarterly and annual Corporate Performance Monitoring Reports to the councils Corporate Management Team and Cabinet track progress meeting the Council’s priorities (Well-being Objectives) set out within the Corporate Plan; all quarterly and annual performance monitoring reports are reviewed at Scrutiny as part of the democratic oversight of performance and improvement. Benchmarking performance data at a service level is done through membership of Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) performance networks. Opportunities for other national comparisons were limited following the removal of the Public Accountability Measures (PAMs) by Welsh Government. Data Cymru are currently working with local authorities in Wales to produce a self-assessment performance dataset to help try and plug this gap.

Corporate performance monitoring and reporting was suspended in March 2020 whilst officers were otherwise engaged or impacted following the lockdown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery took place in June 2020 but was subsequently suspended again in January 2021 following the publication of the Q1 2020/21 Performance Monitoring Report as a result of the second wave of COVID-19. Performance reporting was recovered again in time for Q1 2021/22 but performance targets were not set, the existing performance indicators were retained and not reviewed whilst the Covid pandemic was still in progress. Measuring improvement assessed against the previous comparable reporting period was however maintained when reporting recommenced.

The Local Government & Elections Act 2021 was introduced during 2021/22. As part of the new duties introduced by the Act, the council strengthened and put in new arrangements for self-assessment. The aim of self-assessment, culminating in the annual self-assessment report, is so that the Council continually challenges itself to do better and builds the learning into its plans and arrangements, helping to drive continuous improvement. The approach Swansea adopted was to integrate self-assessment into existing improvement and assessment activity, including within the quarterly and annual performance monitoring reports through the introduction of a self-reflection Tool, adapted from the tool developed by the Future Generations Commissioner, at Q2 and end of year. The advantage of this approach is that it avoids establishing a new and separate, parallel process for corporate self-assessment and instead builds it into what already exists, which is set out as desirable within the statutory guidance.

The information derived from this integrated approach will be used each year to develop the Council's Annual Governance Statement and Annual Review of Performance, which incorporates both the Annual Well-being Report required under the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Self-Assessment Report as required by Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act.

The outcome from the self-assessment process undertaken at half-year and at year-end concluding in the annual report should, through the performance management and scrutiny process, seek to determine how effective are the Council's arrangements and identify ways to improve them. The learning from this process should then be fed back into plans and into improving the effectiveness of arrangements.

Audit Wales recently undertook a review of the arrangements all Councils have in place for responding to the requirements of the Local Government and Election (Wales) Act 2021. Audit Wales concluded that Swansea Council's approach has several positive attributes including:

- the modification of the Future Generations Commissioners Self-Reflection tool to support an integrated approach to the gathering evidence to determine progress against the Council's well-being objectives and to fulfil its new self-assessment responsibilities;
- clear corporate and Member awareness and buy into the proposed new approach;
- enhancement of the Council's Annual Governance Statement process into a Service Assurance and Management process;
- utilisation of SWOT analysis within its Annual Service Planning to provide additional evidence for the Self-Assessment process;
- the integration of the final self-assessment output into the Council's annual review of its well-being objectives, this being its Annual Review of Performance due to be published in October 2022;
- a clear time frame for completing the self-assessment and for how and when governance, oversight and scrutiny will be involved in design and sign-off.

In terms of improvement, Audit Wales noted that the response rate to the public consultation survey was low and that there were a number of challenging results to some of the survey questions, such as those around the Council having good governance arrangements. The low response rate might have skewed the results of the survey. Audit Wales reflected that it will be important to ensure that the output for the Council's self-assessment reflects the feedback from the whole survey. Audit Wales noted the Council's intention to undertake an evaluation of the process at the end of the first iteration and to learn any lessons and improve the approach. This includes looking at the consultation activity and work to improve the amount of review, scrutiny and challenge to the self-assessment process.

The Councils Service Improvement and Finance Scrutiny Performance Panel and the Governance & Audit Committee met to discuss the Councils self-assessment report, the Annual Review of Performance 2021/22, on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022 respectively. The Governance & Audit Committee proposed the following, which have been implemented or, where relevant, will be implemented in the 2022/23 Review:

- Consider the methods and methodologies for 2022/23 in parts 1, 2 and 3. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.
- Linking the performance and risk assessments for 2022/23. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.
- Recognizing improvements that would need to be articulated within the report around stronger analysis. This has been acknowledged within the Review and will be addressed as an ongoing area for improvement starting in 2022/23.
- Correlation between parts 1, 2 and 3, ensuring they are all in harmony prior to the report being presented to Council and if they are not in harmony, outlining the reasons why. The different parts of the assessment are congruent and there is some cross-over between them, although with differing emphasis.
- Ensuring the report is proof read prior to being presented to Council. This has been completed.
- Improving the links between consultation engagement / stakeholder reference. This will be addressed in the 2022/23 assessment.

Following the local government elections in May 2022, the development of a new Corporate Plan for the 2023/27 period will take place during 2022 and will also entail a review of the corporate performance indicators to help measure progress. It is expected that the new Corporate Plan and associated performance indicators will be in place by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. In the meantime, the current suite of corporate performance indicators for 2022/23 reporting will be reviewed for continued relevance, making only essential changes whilst work takes place on the new corporate plan and associated performance indicators; annual performance targets will also be re-established for 2022/23 end-of-year reporting.

#### Areas for continued improvement

- Review the current suite of corporate performance indicators for continued relevance for 2022/23 reporting and set annual targets for end-of-year reporting.
- Develop a Corporate Plan and associated performance indicators for 2023/27.
- Look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process for the annual self-assessment.
- Review and work to improve the amount of review, scrutiny and challenge to the self-assessment process.
- Implement remaining Governance & Audit Committee recommendations for improvement to the Annual Review of Performance.

#### **Consultation outcome**

The council undertook a survey of the public, local businesses, Council staff and trade unions in 2021/22.

There was a low response rate to the survey – under 100 responses - despite the Council doing its best to publicise the survey, including sending direct emails to stakeholders. The low response rate to the survey might have affected confidence in the results.

Respondents were asked to what extent they agreed or disagreed that Swansea Council uses its resources effectively to deliver value for money for local taxpayers?

Almost a third of respondents (29%) agreed that Swansea Council used its resources effectively to deliver value for money for local taxpayers. However, over a half of respondents (58%) disagreed with the statement. A further 13% of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed as to whether Swansea Council used its resources effectively to deliver value for money for local taxpayers.

Just under half of all respondents (49%) responded to an open ended question about what more the Council could do to use its resources more effectively to deliver value for money to local taxpayers.

Suggestions given included: focusing on more front line services, improving consultation and engagement with the public, investing more in housing, roads, tourism, focusing on deprived parts of Swansea and improving public transport.

#### Areas for continued improvement

- Look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process and improve response rates for the annual self-assessment.

#### **Conclusion to Part 2**

The Council is using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively when:

- It is minimising the resources used (Economic).
- The intended results correspond to the actual results (Effective).
- There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).

The evidence in Part 2 of this assessment shows that:

There is a **strong application and effective use of resources** around financial management, procurement and asset management.

There is a **mixed evidence of effective application**, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence regarding workforce planning and performance management.

### **Part 3 – the effectiveness of the Councils Governance arrangements**

The Council is required by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 to undertake a review of its governance arrangements, at least annually. The review is intended to show how the Council has complied with its Code of Corporate Governance.

The review of governance is brought together in the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) which is to accompany the Council's Annual Statement of Accounts. The AGS is a key document informed by a number of both internal and external assurance sources.

This part of the Annual Review of Performance is not meant to replicate the AGS but should be read in conjunction with it. This part of the review is intended to assess and evidence the effectiveness of the Councils governance arrangements in helping to deliver its functions and provide value for money.

The Council has effective governance when it effectively applying the core principles of good governance are set out by CIPFA / SOLACE in *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*:

- A – Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values and respecting the rule of law.
- B – Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.
- C - There is a positive relationship between the resources used and outputs / outcomes, i.e. both the economic and effective criteria are met (Efficient).
- There is equitable access to services and needs are met without compromising the needs to future generations (Equity and sustainability).
- D – Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social and environmental benefits.
- E - Developing the entity's capacity, including the capability of its leadership and the individuals within it.
- F – Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.
- G – Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting and audit to deliver effective accountability.

These core principles are applied in the Council through the following governance arrangements:

- Vision, strategy and performance.
- Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values.
- Organisational leadership.
- Customer & Community Engagement and Involvement.
- Risk Management and Business Continuity.
- Partnership / collaboration governance.
- Internal Control Environment.
- Fraud & Financial Impropriety.
- Programme and Project Assurance.
- Innovation & Change Management.

#### **How well and we doing and how do we know?**

The Council undertook a self-assessment and assurance of the effectiveness of its governance arrangements. The assessment looked at what arrangements were in place during 2021/22, how effective they were and the evidence.

	<b>Evidence &amp; effectiveness of delivery</b>	<b>Extent of evidence &amp; effectiveness</b>
1	Not in place	No evidence of effective delivery.
2	Limited application and effectiveness	Some evidence of application, but the effectiveness of delivery is limited.
3	Mixed Application and effectiveness	Mixed evidence of effective application, with some good evidence and some gaps in application or evidence.
4	Strong Application and effectiveness	Clear evidence of effective application.
5	Embedded	Clear evidence of effective and embedded application

### **Vision, strategy and performance**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There are a complimentary set of sustainable corporate and service-level plans and strategies in place which set out a Council vision and key objectives				
Performance targets and outcomes to deliver corporate and service aims and objectives are identified and measured with democratic oversight to drive improvement actions				
Performance and outcomes are benchmarked with appropriate comparators to ensure value for money and continuous improvement.				
All staff have had induction training and an annual appraisal and are clear as to their objectives and training and development needs.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Evidence**

The Council has a corporate plan that contains a well-being statement, which sets out the council's six key priorities, or well-being objectives, and its values and principles. The corporate plan covers a five year period and is refreshed each year to ensure it remains current. Each well-being objective is delivered through a number of steps, which are aimed at maximising the council's contribution to improving well-being in Swansea and Wales. The council maximises its contribution to improving well-being by working sustainably to deliver the steps. It does this through long-term planning, preventing problems from occurring or from become worse, working collaboratively with others, avoiding duplication and conflict with other priorities and involving others. The corporate plan involved engagement with a number of stakeholders during its development, including people with protected characteristics.

The delivery of the corporate plan is measured through the quarterly and annual performance monitoring reports and through its Annual Review of Performance, which meets its duties to produce an annual self-assessment report and annual well-being report under the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act 2021 and Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 respectively. See Part 1 – performance - for the council's self-assessment on progress delivering its functions meeting its well-being objectives in the corporate plan; and Part 2 – performance management - for more information on the extent to which the council effectively uses its resources.

Each service has a plan that expresses its own priorities and shows how each service is contributing to the Corporate Plan. Service plans are reviewed each year and progress is reviewed by services and helps inform appraisals and one-to-one meetings through their own arrangements. There is no corporate oversight of the delivery of service plans; but a self-assessment was built into the service planning process during 2021/22 as part of the wider effort to develop self-reflection arrangements, which allows services to reflect and identify successes, barriers and areas for improvement. The annual appraisal process was paused as per corporate guidance during the pandemic but staff continued to have one-to-one and team meetings; the appraisal process is being restarted and is being reviewed as recorded in the Annual Governance Statement 2021/22.

There are a set of complimentary strategies and plans to the corporate plan. The “Swansea – Achieving Better Together, Transformation Strategy & Programme Framework” aims to ensure that the council is sustainable, efficient and effective in what and how it delivers its services. As well as identifying the priorities in the short and medium term, the Achieving Better Together framework aims to set the foundations for establishing the longer term shape of the council, looking ahead to the next 20 years to 2040. The programme is split into three phases: phase 1 remobilise after covid; phase 2 refocus (up to May 2022), and; phase 3 reshape (after May 2022). Progress is reviewed and updated on a monthly basis by the Recovery, Reshaping and Budget Strategy Board. The Re-focus phase has set the 2022/23 budget and refreshed the MTFP – see Part 2 Financial Management. The phase 3 - Reshape will look beyond 2022 and will be subject to the new corporate plan 2023/27.

The council’s budget and MTFP and associated financial planning are well-embedded and links to the corporate plan, Achieving Better Together, national settlement, grant terms and conditions and other council plans – see part 2 Financial Management. The Council developed a new Workforce Strategy for 2022 to 2027, which accounts for corporate and service level plans, council vision and key objectives – see Part 2 Workforce Planning. The Asset Management Plan is underpinned by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and it supports the delivery of the Council’s well-being objectives in its corporate plan – see Part 2 Asset Management.

Areas for continued improvement

- See Part 2 – including financial management, performance management and workforce planning.

**Organisational Governance, Ethics and Values.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There are comprehensive and maintained frameworks and codes in place for governance, ethics and values that are applied and observed consistently				
The application of ethics and values is evident in the way options are appraised and decisions are made.				
There is productive working with external regulators and sound compliance with their recommendations and proposals for improvement				
All decisions are assessed for impact and documented to give due consideration to equality and the sustainability of services and encompass the needs of future generations and people with protected characteristics.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**Evidence**

Governance ethics and Codes are set within the council’s constitution, Corporate Plan and Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. The Council also follows best practice in terms of statutory functions, such as CIPFA for financial management and Audit. The behaviour and expectations of officers/members is set out in the Constitution, Member Code of Conduct and Officer/Councillor Relations Protocol. The Monitoring Officer provides training on the code of conduct and ensures the highest standards of conduct by the authority, members and officers – including use of Council resources. The Standards Committee is responsible for monitoring and scrutinising the standards of Members.

The constitution outlines Member-led authority principles with training to senior officers and Cabinet members. The Constitution sets out requirements as to gifts and hospitality and there are regular reminders circulated to both officers and members. There is a member/member dispute resolution protocol which has been adopted. The Constitution contains comprehensive Procurement and Financial Procedure Rules.

The Statutory officers and Members ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements via a robust framework including the scheme of delegation, induction training, standing procedures and rules set out in the Constitution. Reports to Committees have legal/finance clearance and must be subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to assess the implications of decisions for people with protected characteristics and future generations. There is a robust Scrutiny and Call-In function and challenge from Governance & Audit Committee. External challenge is in place from auditors, Ombudsman and other external agencies. The Monitoring Officer ensures the Council complies with statute and reports on any maladministration.

The Standards Committee Annual Report 2020/21 was presented to Council on 2 December 2021. The Report reflected the Committee’s view that generally the conduct of members was high with the Committee only having to consider one complaint against a community councillor.

In their Annual Audit Summary 2021, Audit Wales concluded that the Council had met its duties and requirements. The Governance & Audit Committee however were concerned in 2021/22 to ensure that all Audit Wales recommendations are recorded and tracked for an appropriate response in a consistent way.

Areas for continued improvement

- Put arrangements in place to ensure that Audit Wales recommendations are recorded and tracked in a consistent way.

**Organisational leadership.**

<b>Criteria</b>
There is strong and effective political and professional leadership and working relationships.
There is an organisational operating model and a preferred working culture, which is effective
There are arrangements and training in place to develop leadership capacity and capability to meet present and future needs and demands and which supports sustainable ways of working
<b>Self-assessment</b>



1. Not in place	2. Limited Application and effectiveness	3. Mixed Application and effectiveness	4. Strong Application and effectiveness	5. Embedded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

Cabinet and corporate management team work closely together. There are excellent working relationships between the service and Cabinet members and Group leaders and wider elected members. The relationship between officers and members and their roles and responsibilities are documented in the Constitution and through the procedure rules. Member/ officer relationships has been subject to recent discussions enabled by an external party; this focused on optimising the understanding of political and officer roles.

Senior officers meet weekly as a Corporate Management Team. CMT comprise those officers with statutory functions who provide a professional lead. Appointments to professional posts i.e. heads of service and above, are made on merit and are dependent on appropriate qualifications. Heads of service are appropriately equipped to provide professional leadership for their staff. Corporate management team and heads of service work closely together and collaborate in leadership team meetings. Monthly one-to-one meetings take place between directors and/or heads of service and cabinet members.

There is a joint cabinet and corporate management team meeting every two weeks. The boards or steering groups, such as the Achieving Better Together transformation board, are chaired by political leaders. The corporate plan and associated plans and strategies, such as the workforce strategy, engage members in their development, such as through the Policy Development Committees, and are signed off by the cabinet or council.

The cabinet is aligned to the various directorates and services and reports are signed off by cabinet members and directors. Cabinet members provide leadership and direction early on collectively at CMT/Cabinet Away days and in one-to-one meetings with directors and heads of service. Cabinet members lead on reports at cabinet meetings. There are clear links from the service through to political leadership both in regular meetings with cabinet members and the Leader and also through the democratic processes.

Clear officer advice is provided formally in all reports. Clear formal and often informal advice is given by officers in strongest terms to members. Ultimately members decide but the advice of statutory officers, such as Directors, the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and responsible staff is delivered openly with no fear of speaking out. Staff surveys and feedback indicate that the majority of staff feel valued, managed and well-led by the senior leadership team.

Open productive honest relationships with all members and often very frank exchanges of views takes place, albeit more often informally than in formal evidenced sessions. When the formal officer advice is needed to be given, it is in formal reports to cabinet or council; examples include the annual budget and MTFP.

There is a clear operating model within the council, based on the corporate values and governance requirements. There is a management structure embedded. The management structure is

embedded in the constitution and has been subject to recent review by the Chief Executive / Council.

Arrangements for training are in place. All officers are required to undertake mandatory training and e-learning as defined within their job role. In addition, any professional officer required to undertake continuous professional development to maintain their qualification is supported to do that. There is a limited training budget available across the council and this is an area that requires review.

A coaching development framework has been adopted to enable support and development across the council. Internal advice and awareness training is given to staff e.g. completion of integrated impact assessments, risk control measures and socio-economic duty awareness sessions. Several members of staff have been on leadership training and opportunities are taken to develop staff by deputising etc. for senior colleagues.

There are informal training plans but these are not well documented and Covid limited the opportunities for development; the workforce strategy should help the council to take this forward. There are opportunities for training, although this is subject to budgetary constraints. Each service unit encourages training and training needs are picked up in appraisals and one-to-one meetings. The staff survey did highlight some concerns on training opportunities, which is an area that will be addressed through the workforce strategy.

Training of decision makers including CMT, Leadership Team and Members has taken place on the socio-economic duty. The training programme for elected members after May 2022 has been updated to reflect the training requirements, along with the various committee who have been directly affected by the Local Government & Elections (Wales) Act, such as Governance & Audit Committee. Training on the Well-being of Future Generations Act is incorporated in the action plan to deliver the workforce strategy.

Areas for continued improvement

- See Part 2 – workforce planning.

**Customer & Community Engagement and Involvement.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There are comprehensive and maintained strategies / plans / policies in place for customer and community engagement and involvement.				
Customer and community feedback and involvement are effectively used in reviewing performance and shaping services.				
There is good engagement with stakeholders, including people with protected characteristics, in framing policy and in the making of key service policy decisions				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Evidence

The Council has appropriate structures in place to encourage public participation which is used to inform proposals and key decisions including:

- A Consultation and Engagement Strategy.
- A Co-production Framework.
- “Have your Say” consultations on website.
- The Scrutiny Programme Committee invites stakeholder contributions and participation.
- A Staff Survey with responses considered by CMT/Senior Management.
- A Complaints Policy and Annual Report to assess organisational learning and change.
- The appointment of Councillor Champions who provide a voice for under-represented groups.
- An Integrated Impact Assessment to assess the equality, socio-economic and sustainability impacts on people with protected characteristics and future generations.
- A new Public Participation strategy under development.

There is appropriate consultation and engagement supporting the decision making process including annual budget consultation, co-production, engagement with trade unions and engagement with disability and LGBT communities. The results of consultation exercises are fully considered by decision makers with consultation responses set out in reports. The council undertook consultation on its performance and on its corporate plan in 2021/22, which included the public, people with protected characteristics, local businesses, council staff and trade unions. There was a low response rate to the survey but the results of the survey are being reflected within this report and ways to improve the response rate will be reviewed.

Performance is monitored through the complaints comments and complainants being reported through to departmental management and performance and financial management meetings. Specific customer facing departments undertake surveys or monitor standards. Some internal customers are also surveyed for satisfaction, e.g. Digital Services service desk performance is reported monthly, which gives performance against key performance indicators and customer feedback and compliments; the scrutiny team regularly send out questionnaires to those using the service as to how they have done. Complaints targets are stipulated in the policies and are reported as part of the annual complaints report. Customer Services targets were under review in 2021/22 as a result of the pandemic, which altered the way customers access services. Feedback from customers with regard to processes and ways of working are fed back to services.

The Corporate Complaints Policies were reviewed to ensure they were in line with the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019 and the Welsh Language Standards. The Annual Complaints Report 2020/21 was presented to the Governance & Audit Committee in December 2021 as a result of the new Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 to provide assurance around the Council’s complaints handling processes. The Committee welcomed the report but noted that it was important not to overlap the work of Scrutiny Committee. The report was presented to the Scrutiny programme Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022. In addition, the Ombudsman’s annual report was presented to Cabinet in November 2021. The Annual Complaints Report reflects the continued emphasis on prompt resolution of complaints and includes compliments about services. 73 complaints were made to the Ombudsman including corporate complaints and Social Services (there were 92 cases received in 2019/20). 67 of which were closed within the year, and nine of which received intervention (early resolution / voluntary settlement (5) or were upheld (4)). PSOW complaints reduced compared with the 92 closed in 2019/20. There was an assurance that there were no s16 Public Interest reports during the year.

### Areas for continued improvement

- See Part 2 – performance management.
- Continue the development of a Public Participation Strategy, as required by the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

### **Risk Management and Business Continuity.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There is a comprehensive and maintained risk management policy and framework in place.				
All relevant risks are managed in line with the Council’s approved Risk Management Policy and Framework.				
Business Continuity plans are in place and are regularly updated and tested.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **Evidence**

A Corporate Risk Management Framework was approved by Cabinet in August 2017 and a new Risk Management IT system was introduced across the Council in 2020/21. All corporate, directorate and service level risks are recorded in the corporate risk register. Risk is a standing item on monthly departmental and performance and finance meetings. A monthly report on risk is reported to the corporate management team and a report on the status of corporate risks in the council is reported each quarter to Governance & Audit Committee. The Council’s Risk Management Framework requires all Risks to be reviewed and the Red/Amber/Green status updated every month. Risks are “deactivated” within the Risk Register by Responsible Officers when necessary, and this can only be actioned by officers with appropriate system access; reasons for deactivating risks must be provided.

An internal audit was undertaken on corporate risk management in 2021/22. The findings report confirmed that reports on risks had been reviewed every month by CMT during 2021/22 and they represented a comprehensive review of the status of all Risks in the Council’s Risk Register, which includes risk escalations / de-escalations. It was also confirmed that reports on Corporate Risks had been presented to the Governance & Audit Committee for all of the completed quarters of 2021/22. A review of all of the Corporate Risks as at March 2022 (18 in total) revealed that all had been updated within the last month as required. All 18 Corporate Risks were also checked to determine whether updates were recorded every month in the last three months. This revealed that 17 out of the 18 risks had been updated; while 1 out of the 18 had been updated in February and January 2022, prior to that it had not been updated since October 2021. A check was carried out to confirm that where Risks had been deactivated, a reason had been provided. All were examined and it was found that a reason had been provided in each case.

Concern was expressed by the Governance & Audit Committee at its meeting in February 2021 on the adequacy of the Control Measures recorded in the register for Corporate Risks. As a result, during 2021/22, Directors have been required to attend the Governance & Audit Committee on a rotational basis to outline the governance and risk management controls within their directorate; additional training on Control Measures has been provided to Directors and Heads of Service and all

Responsible Officers in 2021/22. The Control Measures for all Corporate Risks were also reviewed in January 2022 and feedback provided to corporate management team on whether they are “SMART” – Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-Bound. As part of the audit a test was carried out on all of the Control Measures for all of the Corporate Risks to confirm that they were appropriate, complete and were “SMART”; all were found to be satisfactory other than 3 risks.

The Internal Audit Section operates a system of Assurance levels which give a formal opinion of the achievement of the service’s/system’s control objectives. The Assurance levels vary over four categories: 'High', 'Substantial', 'Moderate' and 'Limited'. Based on the audit testing undertaken, it was found that almost most procedures were operating satisfactorily, with only a small number of matters requiring improvement. As a result, an Assurance Level of ‘**Substantial**’ was given. This indicates that ‘There is a sound system of internal control but there is some scope for improvement as the ineffective controls may put the system objectives at risk’.

Project risks are managed and monitored through their Boards / steering groups or governance arrangements. Business continuity plans are in place and are reviewed annually.

Areas for continued improvement

- Implement recommendations from 2021/22 Internal Audit Report on risk management to continue regular updates and ensure control measures remain SMART.

**Partnership / collaboration governance.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
There is active and effective governance arrangements and engagement in partnerships and collaborations helping to achieve corporate aims and objectives.				
The key partnerships and collaborations for which the service / council is (co) responsible perform well against their aims and objectives				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Evidence**

The council is involved in over a hundred active collaborations but there are five key and significant Partnerships and collaborations: the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC); Swansea’s Public Service Board (PSB); the West Glamorgan Regional Health and Social Care Partnership; the Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD), and; the regional educational partnership Partneriaeth.

A report providing an overview of the governance and assurance arrangements of these five significant partnerships and collaborations, including work that had been undertaken during 2021/22, was presented to Governance & Audit Committee in July 2022; the committee were also provided with at the same meeting a specific report on progress establishing the CJC. The CJC is a new regional partnership established by Local Government & Elections Act 2021. The aim is to bring coherence to regional governance. The CJC has limited functions: strategic development planning; regional transport planning; to promote economic well-being. Although treated as separate

corporate bodies, they should be seen as ‘part of the local government family’. Swansea Council is a member of the South West Wales CJC, along with Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and Neath Port Talbot Councils – plus Brecon Beacons and Pembrokeshire National Parks.

A number of things were resolved at the first meeting of the South West Wales CJC in January 2022:

- The Leader of Swansea Council was appointed Chair.
- A constitution was approved.
- Standing orders to govern the CJC were adopted.
- Appointments to statutory roles were made: Chief Executive (Neath Port Talbot Council – to rotate); Section 151 Officer (Carmarthenshire Council); Monitoring Officer (NPT Council).
- Sub-committees were created.
- A Governance & Audit Committee was established.
- An Overview & Scrutiny Committee was created.
- NPT Standards Committee was designated to act for the CJC.
- Members Code of Conduct were approved.
- Rules of Procedure were approved.
- Access to Information Procedure Rules were agreed.
- A draft budget and Service Level Agreements were established to deliver corporate support services.

The CJC has set a zero financial budget for the 2021/22 financial year and agreed that no levy be raised against constituent councils for that year; but that to ensure fairness and equity across the region the regional funding of the CJC would be set through a levy apportionment by population size. Swansea’s share of this equates to £200k and was budgeted for accordingly. The financial position of the National Parks is yet to be determined but it should be noted that their financial contribution extends only to supporting the strategic planning aspect of the CJC. During the course of 2022/23 the forward programme for 2023/24 will be developed and this will in turn link in directly with the future budget requirements.

The West Glamorgan Regional Partnership was established in 2016 and was formerly known as Western Bay. It is a statutory partnership introduced by Social Services & Well-being Act 2014 and is a collaboration between Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Councils and the local Health Board. The collaboration sees partners working together to ensure there are good health and social care services across the region. The Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 outlines that the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership now focuses on three areas of ‘transformation’, all with associated projects and work streams being delivered in the context of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. These are:

- The Adult’s Transformation Board (the key priorities of which include Older Adults, the Commissioning for Complex Needs Programme, Dementia, the Mental Health Strategic Framework, the Learning Disability Strategic Framework).
- The Children and Young Adults’ Transformation Board (key priorities of which include the Multi Agency Placement Support Service, Children with Complex Needs and the Regional Strategic Development Plan).
- The Integrated Transformation Board (the key priorities of which include Carers, Digital Transformation, Transformation in Networks and the Welsh Community Care Information System).

The Director of Social Services Annual Report 2021/22 report describes how safeguarding remains the top corporate priority and this is at the heart of how council services are prioritised. The report

states that the council has fully embraced the need for the council to work even more closely and effectively with statutory and third sector partners to ensure safe and effective delivery of health and care services. The report goes on to say that this collaborative ethos informs both the council's local partnership work and its commitment to working with and through the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership Board.

A report to the Adult Services Scrutiny Performance Panel in March 2022 provided an update on the work of the West Glamorgan programme since March 2021. The report describes that in June 2021 West Glamorgan Regional Partnership entered a period of recovery from COVID-19 arrangements and the Transformation Programme was re-started to support the regions stabilisation and reconstruction. During September 2021, it was agreed by the Transformation Boards that the agendas would be more flexible and move to a two weekly timetable. This would allow all Transformation Programmes to report fortnightly on how they are responding to the emergency through the Winter Period. It was agreed to reconfigure the current RPB transformation programme to focus on emergency (including Winter planning) with a focus on actions that will best support the population and our health/ social care system over the next 5 months. It was agreed from the outset that the region had learned lessons from the first wave of the pandemic and agreed to include all cohorts in the development of and planning for the Emergency / Winter.

It was agreed to establish a pooled fund to support the winter / emergency plan initiatives, utilising any un-allocated regional funding. The main focus of the Transformation Board since November 2021 has been to predominantly work to stop community services failing; this includes meeting twice weekly via the Transformation Board and a Community Silver Meeting. The Community Silver meeting concentrated on the Regional Integrated Escalation Framework, which highlights in detail the pressures and issues across Community Services. During December 2021, the pressures escalated cumulating with a decision at the Transformation Board on 21st December 2021 that the meetings would remain weekly but only concentrate on the Winter and Emergency Pressures to allow for scenario planning for the most extreme complications and to allow the group to concentrate further on developing capacity to support people to remain in their own homes. In addition to working on the emergency the West Glamorgan Transformation Office is focussed on developing Business Cases for the programme in line with the new funding regime for Regional Partnership Boards announced by the Minister for Health and Social Care for the next 5 years which starts in April 2022. In October 2021 the Regional Partnership Board agreed the new governance framework with amendments to the Terms of Reference.

The revised Regional Governance Framework for the West Glamorgan Regional Partnership was approved in February 2022; this includes terms of reference, appointment of Board members and the various roles and responsibilities. Citizen and Carer Representatives are actively involved and engaged in the work of the Regional Partnership Boards and should be able to demonstrate how they have engaged with citizens and carers at all levels including assessing need, strategic planning, service design and delivery. Third Sector and Care Provider representatives are also engaged and able to influence and be involved in the design and delivery of integrated services.

The Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) was signed off in 2017; it represents a £1.3 billion investment in the regional economy. The partnership includes Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils. It is made up of 9 programmes and projects, including Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District project led by Swansea Council. A joint UK Government and Welsh Government Board – the Welsh Cities and Growth Implementation Board - oversees progress. A Joint Committee has been established to monitor the SBCD. A Joint Committee Agreement was made between the partners to work together to discharge their obligations to one another. The Joint Committee is chaired by the Leader of Swansea Council. A Programme Board oversees the

operations of the SBCD. An Economic Strategy Board is a private sector advisory body which acts as the voice of business.

A Joint Scrutiny Committee provides advice, challenge and support to the Joint Committee and is made up of two elected members from each of the four regional local authorities. Swansea Council hosts the Joint Committee and all Legal and Democratic services (and provides the Monitoring Officer). Carmarthenshire Council has the responsibility as the accountable body for the entire portfolio ensuring outcomes are delivered (and provides the Section 151 Officer). Pembrokeshire County Council has responsibility for all audit activity for the holistic portfolio. Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has regional responsibility for scrutiny of the portfolio and its constituent programmes and projects. A City Deal Portfolio Director and City Deal Portfolio Management Office ensures smooth operation and sound governance. A risk register, monitoring and implementation plan and other plans are in place to ensure delivery and governance.

The report to the Governance & Audit Committee in July 2022 heard that the Swansea specific elements of the city deal programme are progressing well with the Swansea Arena complete and operational and with the remaining aspects due for completion later in 2022/23. Work is also progressing well with 71/72 Kingsway digital district and the aligned projects being carried out by University Wales Trinity St David's also making good progress. The Council is also actively involved in the regional project of talent and skills, Homes and Power stations and the digital strand of the SBCD programme.

Partneriaeth is a new partnership established in 2021 and commenced in April 2022, following the demise of ERW, new regional partnership arrangements for education improvement. Membership consists of Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire Councils and operation is governed by a legal agreement. The partnership is overseen by a Joint Committee over the constituent members. The Leader of Swansea Council is a member of the Joint Committee. A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group has been established. Services are also provided to local authorities which are not party to the legal agreement: namely Neath Port Talbot, Ceredigion and Powys Councils. A Strategic Group will have responsibility for undertaking some operational matters and will report to the Joint Committee. An Operations Group and a Stakeholder Group shall report to the Strategic Group. The Joint Committee will have the responsibility to establish Sub-committees, establish terms of reference and membership as it sees fit within the confines the legal partnership agreement. A Joint Scrutiny Councillor Group will be established to provide an informal scrutiny function to ensure greater public accountability over decisions made by the Joint Committee and any of its sub-committees.

The Public Services Board (PSB) was established as a result of the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015: it aims to improve well-being in Swansea. The PSB revised and agreed its terms of reference in April 2019. Statutory Membership of the Board includes: Swansea Council, Swansea Bay University Health Board, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service and Natural Resources Wales. Invited participants include: Welsh Ministers, the Chief Constable of South Wales Police, the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner, the Probation service, a representative of voluntary organisations and any other persons who the Board may be required to invite under regulations made by Welsh Ministers. Invited participant are not members of the Board and are not required to accept the invitation. The PSB is chaired by the Deputy Leader of Swansea Council Cllr Andrea Lewis.

The Joint Committee oversees the delivery of the PSB Well-being Plan through 4 workstreams, each led by one of the statutory members: Early Years – ABMU; Live Well, Age Well – Swansea Council; Working with Nature – Natural Resources Wales, and; Stronger Communities – Fire and Rescue. Task and finish delivery groups deliver each workstream. Swansea Council provides administrative and



democratic services support to the PSB. The majority of work carried out by Swansea PSB is carried out within the existing budgets of the Statutory Partners and subject to individual organisation’s arrangements. A grant is provided by Welsh Government to help fund some costs. A Partnership Forum provides a mechanism for a range of interested parties from the public, private and voluntary sector to engage in the work of the PSB.

Swansea Councils Scrutiny Programme Committee (SPC) scrutinises the work of the PSB. The SPC made a number of proposals for improvement during 2021/22, which includes: improving the performance framework to better evidence the tangible difference the PSB is making (including better measurements of progress in the delivery of well-being objectives); improving the clarity of action and outcomes from PSB meetings; improving public visibility / messaging about the work of the PSB (as part of strategy for public engagement); reflecting on PSB governance in light of lessons learned from the pandemic.

The PSB Annual Report 2021/22 was published in August 2022; the report provides an update on the work undertaken in 2021/22, including progress against each of the well-being objectives described in the PSB Well-being Plan. Much of the local focus and partner resource around well-being measurement during 2021/22 has been on Swansea’s second Assessment of Local Well-being, which was completed and published in May 2022 to meet legislative requirements. The document provides an assessment of the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in Swansea and will be used to inform the next local Well-being Plan in May 2023.

Areas for continued improvement

- Continue work to address all proposals for improvement to the operation of the PSB made by the Scrutiny Programme Committee.

**Internal Control Environment.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
Strong Internal Control systems are in place and applied throughout the Council				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Evidence**

Assurance on the application of the Local Code of Corporate Governance in the council is provided through the production of the Annual Governance Statement (AGS), which is reported for assurance to Governance & Audit Committee each year. The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Authority’s policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood and potential impact of those risks being realised and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The City and County of Swansea annually reviews the effectiveness of its governance framework, including the system of internal control. It does this through: Statements from Corporate Management Team (CMT), Statutory Officers, the Internal Audit Manager and the Governance & Audit Committee; external organisations i.e. Audit Wales and regulators, and; core evidence mapped to Council, Cabinet and Committees. This information is used to compile the AGS. Based on the programme of audit work undertaken in 2021/22, the Chief Auditor’s opinion set out in the AGS on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council’s framework of governance, risk management and internal control is effective with no significant weaknesses identified in 2021/22 that would have a material impact on the Council’s financial affairs or the achievement of its objectives.

**Fraud & Financial Impropriety.**

<b>Criteria</b>				
The Council has robust controls in place to prevent and promptly detect fraud, bribery and corruption.				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Evidence**

The Council is dedicated to tackling fraud and corruption and has an Anti-Fraud and Corruption Policy and Whistleblowing Policy. The Governance & Audit Committee receives an annual report on the fraud function and Anti-Fraud Plan. The Internal Audit Plan is approved by Governance & Audit Committee. On 20th April 2021 the Committee received the 2021/22 Fraud Function Annual Plan. The 2020/21 Anti-Fraud Annual Report was received at the meeting in July 2021. An additional report was presented to provide the Governance & Audit Committee with an update against progress being made against recommendations in the Audit Wales report ‘Raising our Game - Tackling Fraud in Wales’ in March 2021 with an update on progress in November 2021. The Committee noted that some further work was required to address all those recommendations. The council has a corporate level risk on reducing and tackling fraud on its corporate risk register, which includes a number of mitigations and control measures that are reviewed each month.

Areas for continued improvement

- Continue work to address all recommendations in the Audit Wales report ‘Raising our Game - Tackling Fraud in Wales’.

**Programme and Project Assurance**

<b>Criteria</b>
All programmes and projects are managed using robust project and programme management methodology and in accordance with corporate guidelines and procedural rules with appropriate highlighting of potential risks/breaches
<b>Self-assessment</b>

1. Not in place	2. Limited Application and effectiveness	3. Mixed Application and effectiveness	4. Strong Application and effectiveness	5. Embedded
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

Large or high risk projects and programmes follow agreed methodology starting with the initial business case approved by the Senior Responsible Owner or CMT/Cabinet (dependent on the size of the project), governance structure, risk log and reporting process.

The council's transformation programme Achieving Better Together (ABT) has a highlight report, which is presented at a steering group and then a further highlight report from the steering group presented to the ABT Board along with additional areas of strategic importance, risk and progress. A report to the Governance & Audit Committee in April 2022 demonstrated that the refocus phase of the programme was well underway and that the working groups were in place and working through the actions associated with their agendas. The paper to the committee concluded that the reporting mechanisms and governance boards are in place and were working well.

All business cases to access funding under the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme are effectively developed to gain appropriate Welsh Government approval at outline and full business case stages. All business cases are robustly scrutinised and positive feedback continues to be received from WG officials who consider them as examples of good practice. Benefits both financial and non-financial are clearly defined in business cases, and monitored throughout project life cycles. Post Occupancy Evaluation is now a developing piece of work. Governance arrangements for the QEd programme have been repeatedly scrutinised (including Estyn and Audit Wales and an external Gateway review) and is recognised as effective by Welsh Government generally, as well as specifically as a key element of the 'five case business model' that is required to gain approval to capital funding for specific schemes.

A report providing an overview of the governance and assurance arrangements of the five significant partnerships and collaborations, including programme and project management arrangements for the established partnerships, was presented to Governance & Audit Committee in July 2022. The overarching transformation of health and social care programmes are facilitated through the infrastructure of the Regional Partnership Board. A robust and consistent project management methodology is adopted at both a regional, local, directorate and service level with dedicated specialist resources allocated to ensure project initiation, delivery against intended outcomes, risk management and transition to business as usual is properly managed. Regional and local investment in project management capacity has demonstrably paid off and proved particularly valuable in supporting rapid change to health and care services to mitigate the extreme impacts of the pandemic.

The Swansea Bay City Deal (SBCD) adopted a new Portfolio Risk Management Strategy in 2020. They also established a Portfolio Risk Register and Issues Log, and regularly report on prioritised risks through the governance structures. Key risks are captured in a SBCD Portfolio Risk Register. The Portfolio Office regularly reviews and monitors the risk management process. In order to further support the management of risks and potential associated issues, the Portfolio Management office developed a change control in February 2021. The SBCD developed a Monitoring and Evaluation Plan in June 2020. Project teams contribute to monthly highlight and quarterly monitoring reports, an

annual report and planned milestone evaluations. These reports outline planned and completed activity, key deliverables, risks, issues and finances at project, programme and portfolio levels. All nine SBCD projects and programmes have also established Integrated Assurance and Approval Plans, which are regularly updated and shared with the SBCD governance boards and committees. The SBCD Portfolio and projects are also subject to OGC (Office of Government Commerce) Gateway Reviews to assure successful progression and overall delivery of the portfolio and associated projects and programmes. Gateway reviews are instigated and led by the Portfolio or Project/Programmes. All Welsh Government sponsored Programmes and Projects are mandated by the Welsh Government Permanent Secretary to complete a Risk Potential Assessment form for review/appraisal by the Office of Project Delivery.

### Innovation & Change Management.

<b>Criteria</b>				
The Council has a proven track record for innovation and change management				
Change and transformation programmes are making the Council fit for the future and are contributing to the Council's aims and objectives				
There are arrangements in place and evidence to show that staff, customers and stakeholders can and are making innovations and suggestions for improvement				
Risks and impact from transformational activity are monitored to identify any adverse impact, including adverse impact on equality and on the well-being of current and future generations				
<b>Self-assessment</b>				
<b>1. Not in place</b>	<b>2. Limited Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>3. Mixed Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>4. Strong Application and effectiveness</b>	<b>5. Embedded</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Evidence

The COVID-19 pandemic brought huge challenges and changes to the Council, its services and workforce. The Council has never undertaken such change in such a short timescale and in such challenging circumstances. A number of non-essential services were suspended in order to redeploy resources to areas where they were most needed. In summary, since March 2020 the Council has transformed the way it works to manage the impact of the pandemic. Thousands of staff were successfully mobilised to work remotely and/or from home within a matter of weeks. This took a massive effort from our ICT team to provide the necessary changes enabling staff and councillors to have full network links at their preferred location. Other changes include:

- Being one of the first councils in Wales to move meetings, committees and council online.
- Rolling out agile working, which supported the transition to working from home and agile working for the whole workforce during the pandemic.
- Supporting the Welsh Government's Shielding Programme by setting up a new call centre and providing daily support to thousands of vulnerable people.
- Focusing social services care on the most vulnerable, re-opening a care home and supporting the private care sector.
- Overseeing the planning and construction of the Bay Field Hospital on Fabian Way.
- Remodelling schools into care settings for key workers' children.
- Providing meals to care settings and delivering free school meals.
- Providing food banks across the city and county.

- Providing financial support in excess of £100 million to thousands of businesses.
- Setting up a Track, Trace and Protect function and providing community testing centres.
- Preparing for mass vaccination in our communities.

A report to Governance & Audit Committee in April 2022 provided a progress update on the Council's Achieving Better Together (ABT) corporate transformation programme. The main purpose of the ABT Programme is to ensure the council is sustainable, efficient and effective in what and how it delivers its services with the citizen at the heart. As well as identifying the priorities in the short and medium term, the ABT framework aims to set the foundations for establishing the longer term shape of the council, looking ahead to the next 20 years to 2040 - first recovery, then refocus and then reshape the council.

The committee heard that the work of both the Remobilise and Refocus phase of the ABT programme continued throughout the pandemic and that the council, not only maintained services throughout the pandemic, but is well underway on its journey to the second refocus phase. The Refocus phase has set the 2022/23 council budget and refreshed the council's MTFP. Phase 3 - Reshape - will look beyond 2022, it will be subject to the 2022 elections and priorities of the new council. The report concluded that the refocus phase is well underway and that the working groups are in place and working through the actions associated with their agendas. The ABT Programme is contributing towards the achievement of the national well-being goals and corporate well-being objectives in the corporate plan. The council's Policy Development Committees provided support to the programme and work-streams; the Recovery & Future Generation PDC supported the overarching ABT work programme. The Recovery & Future Generation PDC's have recently received a session on co-production, an update on the Consultation and Engagement Strategy and a workshop on the Workforce work-stream during 2021/22; these are all projects within the Workforce & Equality work stream. The work-stream leads worked closely with other PDC's on their individual projects, plans and policies.

The ABT programme has a risk and issue log that is flagged at both the Steering group and at the ABT Board; any issue also escalated to CMT or onto the risk register if required. The governance and assurance within the project management framework for each transformation includes a risk matrix and escalation process. All transformational activity is submitted to an Integrated Impact Assessment to ensure there are no negative impacts on people, including future generations. Swansea Council's internal audit team carried out an examination of the programme, governance and structure during 2021/22. A 'High' Level of Assurance was awarded. This indicates that 'there is a sound system of internal control designed to achieve the programme objectives and the controls are being consistently applied'. There were no recommendations following the examination.

The Workforce Strategy has been developed to meet the council wide requirement for recruiting, retaining and developing staff to enable flexibility and fit for the future. This includes proposals to improve and develop staff engagement and innovation. The council has an Ideas Hub; the Ideas Hub is an online platform that provides opportunities for staff to put forward innovative ideas to Achieve Better Together. The 'Let's Talk About' initiative introduced in 2021/22 building on the previous Leadership Hub community delivers monthly workshop events that combine presentations and interview style conversations from leaders with a wide range of experiences across different organisations.

### **Consultation outcome**

The council undertook a survey of the public, local businesses, Council staff and trade unions in 2021/22.

There was a low response rate to the survey – under 100 responses - despite the Council doing its best to publicise the survey, including sending direct emails to stakeholders. The low response rate to the survey might have affected confidence in the results.

Respondents were asked to what extent do you agree or disagree that Swansea Council is well governed. Just under a third of respondents (30% n= 21) agreed that Swansea Council was well governed. However over 40% of respondents (n = 29) disagreed that it was well governed. Around a fifth of respondents (20% n= 17), neither agreed nor disagreed with the statement and a further 2 respondents (2.9%) didn't know whether it was well governed, or not.

Just over 40% of participants (n= 30) in the survey responded to an open ended question about how the Council could improve the way in which it is governed. Suggestions included: improving Council culture IT systems, increasing the efficiency of staff, linking more departments together, more consultation with public and staff, keeping more services “in-house”, improving communication, reducing management and re-prioritising resources.

#### Areas for continued improvement

- Look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process and improve response rates for the annual self-assessment.

#### **Conclusion to Part 3**

The Council has effective governance when it applying the core principles of good governance are set out by CIPFA / SOLACE in *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government*.

The evidence in Part 3 of this assessment shows that:

There is a **mixed application and effectiveness of governance** around vision, strategy & performance.

There is a **strong application and effectiveness of governance** in all of the other areas.

#### **Where to find additional information**

If you have any questions or comments on the content of this plan, you can contact by: Email to [improvement@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:improvement@swansea.gov.uk) Telephone 01792 637570.

Please ensure that you refer to the Screening Form Guidance while completing this form.

**Which service area and directorate are you from?**

Service Area: SDU

Directorate: Corporate Services

**Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?**

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:**

Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 – this report meets our duty to report on progress in 2021/22 meeting the ‘steps’ described in the Corporate Plan to deliver our well-being objectives and on extent to which a local authority is: exercising its functions effectively; using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively, and; is governing itself effectively in securing the above – as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act 2021 respectively.

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act 2021 requires the Council to consult on its performance each year. The council undertook a survey of the public, local businesses, Council staff and trade unions in 2021/22. The results to the consultation are included in the Annual Review of Performance 2021/22 – as is an area for continued improvement to look for ways to improve the consultation and engagement process and improve the response rates for the annual self-assessment.

**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan’s Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Medium risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Low risk <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**  
 Yes  No **If yes, please provide details below**

**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**  
 Yes  No **If yes, please provide details below**

**Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**  
*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and*



*whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

**Outcome of Screening – this report meets our duty to report on progress in 2021/22 meeting the ‘steps’ described in the Corporate Plan to deliver our well-being objectives and on extent to which a local authority is: exercising its functions effectively; using its resources economically, efficiently and effectively, and; is governing itself effectively in securing the above – as required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 and Part 6 of the Local Government & Elections Act 2021 respectively, so there is no direct impact on people or communities.**

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the ‘Integrated Assessment Implications’ section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: R Rowlands</b>
<b>Job title: Strategic Delivery &amp; Performance Manager</b>
<b>Date: 05/09/22</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name: Lee Wenham</b>
<b>Position: Head of Communications &amp; marketing</b>
<b>Date: 05/09/22</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 17.



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance

Council – 2 March 2023

### Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) Review and Replacement

<b>Purpose:</b>	To inform Members of the findings of the 3rd Swansea LDP Annual Monitoring Report (AMR), and to seek approval for a consultation exercise to be undertaken on the draft Swansea LDP Review Report and Swansea Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Swansea Local Development Plan (Adopted 2019); Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004; Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015; Planning (Wales) Act 2015; Planning Policy Wales (2021) and related Guidance
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) The findings of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Swansea LDP AMR (attached at Appendix A) are noted and the document submitted to Welsh Government</li><li>2) The findings of the draft Swansea LDP Review Report (attached at Appendix B) are noted and the document approved for public and stakeholder consultation</li><li>3) The draft Swansea Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement (attached at Appendix C) be approved for public and stakeholder consultation</li><li>4) The Head of Planning and City Regeneration, or appropriate delegated Officer, be authorised to make any outstanding typographical, grammatical, presentational or factual amendments to the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMR, draft LDP Review Report and draft Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement</li></ol>
<b>Report Author:</b>	Tom Evans
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Peter Keys
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Jonathan Wills
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

## 1.0 Background and Context

- 1.1 The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) 2010-2025 was adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and forms the statutory development plan for the City and County, under the provisions of Section 38(6) of the Planning Act. The LDP sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land within the county boundary for the period up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.
- 1.2 Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a statutory duty to keep their development plans up to date and to prepare Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) to measure how the objectives of the LDP are being achieved, and how its key policies, allocations and infrastructure requirements are all being delivered. AMRs are formulated having regard to the LDP Monitoring Framework, which forms part of the adopted Plan and has indicators to measure the effectiveness of the LDP policies in meeting identified targets and trigger points. WG guidance has been updated since the adoption of the Swansea LDP, with the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020) identifying additional indicators to be integrated into all LDP Monitoring Frameworks and AMRs. Having regard to the statutory requirement, the LPA has produced the **3rd AMR on the Swansea LDP (attached at Appendix A)**. The document presents the results of analysis undertaken on every LDP indicator having regard to relevant targets, trigger points and all available data. A summary of the results are presented in section 2 of this Council Report.
- 1.3 The Planning Act requires Council's to undertake a comprehensive review of their adopted LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption. This is in order to ensure the LDP, and its supporting evidence, is found to be up to date and providing a sound basis for planning decisions. Given the Swansea LDP was adopted in February 2019, the Council is required to commence a review of the Swansea LDP by February 2023 at the latest, in accordance with the process prescribed by Welsh Government (WG) and the relevant legislation. Having regard to the statutory requirement, the LPA has produced the **draft Swansea LDP Review Report (attached at Appendix B)**. The document sets out the findings of a detailed review undertaken into adopted LDP policies, having regard to the findings of the AMRs. It also identifies the appropriate procedural route for the Swansea Replacement LDP (RLDP), and identifies key issues to be considered when taking the replacement process forward. A summary of the draft Review Report findings are presented in section 3 of this Council Report.
- 1.4 One of the key recommendations of the draft Swansea LDP Review Report is that the LPA should produce a **draft Delivery Agreement (DA) for the Replacement Swansea LDP (attached at Appendix C)**, and that approval should be sought from Members to consult with the public and stakeholders on the document. It identifies that the DA is required to set out the proposed timetable for the preparation of the RLDP, together with the Community Engagement Scheme (CIS) detailing when, and how the Council will consult on its preparation and with whom. A summary of the draft DA is presented in section 4 of this Council Report.

## 2.0 Summary of Swansea Local Development Plan 3rd AMR

- 2.1 The 3rd AMR on the Swansea LDP (attached at Appendix A) relates to the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. The AMR reviews the social, economic and environmental context that influenced the delivery of LDP objectives during 2021-22. It identifies significant changes to national planning policy and guidance that has affected the planning context, including the publication of the new National Development Plan Future Wales, changes to flood risk policy, a new planning Use Class system and various new requirements for housing standards. The declared climate and nature emergencies are highlighted as particularly illustrative of the new landscape within which planning and development objectives need to be realised. The AMR notes that the COVID 19 pandemic also remains a significant factor in the monitoring for this year, having a clear impact on some of the activities being monitored. For example, while traffic flows have increased from the exceptionally low levels observed during the height of the pandemic, traffic patterns remain markedly altered from pre pandemic habits. The impacts are described at the relevant points throughout the AMR document and may well continue to raise significant issues when the next AMR is published.
- 2.2 In addition to the close and regular dialogue that the LPA has undertaken with developers promoting development schemes, and the engagement that takes place during regular Council facilitated Developer Forum meetings, the LPA has consulted further with the development sector through the Home Builders Federation (HBF) Wales in producing the latest AMR. The housing trajectory outputs first drafted by the LPA were largely supported by the sector, with only a small number of site specific queries raised that necessitated adjustments to the anticipated trajectory for the delivery of homes at relevant sites.
- 2.3 The 3<sup>rd</sup> AMR confirms that having analysed every LDP indicator against the relevant targets, trigger points and WG guidance, overall the majority of LDP policies are working effectively. The majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation, thereby providing an indication that the LDP is delivering many significant benefits to communities across the County. Table 1 below summarises the outcome for all the indicators considered in the AMR.

Assessment	Action	Number of Indicators
Indicators suggest that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review	Continue Monitoring (Green)	95
Indicators suggest that the Plan Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner.	Training Required (Blue)	0

Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan	SPG required (Purple)	0
Indicators suggest the Plan Policies are not being effective as originally expected.	Further investigation/ research required (Yellow)	5
Indicators suggest that Plan policy/ies are not being implemented.	Policy Review (Orange)	18
Indicators suggest the Plan strategy is not being implemented.	Plan Review (Red)	7

**Table 2 LDP Monitoring Summary for 2021-22 – AMR 3**

- 2.4 Whilst the AMR confirms that the majority of LDP policies and objectives are ‘green’ where no action is required other than continued monitoring, there are some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes not being achieved (red or amber), which primarily relate to the delivery of housing and employment related development. Significant time lags in the pre-construction periods have been encountered on key residential led development sites when compared to that allowed for in the forecasted trajectory in the LDP. On the basis of the latest site forecasts formulated through engagement with developers and site promoters, the updated forecasted housing supply illustrates that it is expected to again fall below the average annual projected rate in the next 12 months on the basis of the sites with planning consent. Housing supply is not expected to exceed the average annual rate until the subsequent years of the Plan period. Strategic site allocations are expected to comprehensively get underway in these latter years of the Plan to deliver significant numbers of new homes, with more than one outlet on these large sites. In addition other sites identified in the updated trajectory will have progressed through the development pipeline to begin delivery of new homes.
- 2.5 There have been highly exceptional circumstances that have influenced the above outcome over the last 2-3 years. In particular, dwelling completions have been significantly impacted by the COVID 19 crisis affecting site operations (closure of sites and social distancing), while labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems are also impacting the housebuilding industry. It is also the case that new national legislation and regulations have affected the housebuilding industry, and its ability to bring forward sites with speed, across the country. The impact of sustainable drainage requirements, and associated requirements for achieving biodiversity enhancements at all scales, have posed huge challenges for developers and have had to be incorporated into the masterplanning process on sites. This in turn has impacted on the financial viability of schemes, and in some cases delayed deliverability. The challenges posed by these new requirements have equally

needed to be faced by the Council, and has required new ways of working and co-ordination across departments to ensure proposed developments can progress to delivery on site.

- 2.6 It is important to note that delays in the delivery of housing requirements are being experienced across Wales and this issue is not confined to Swansea, and shortfalls in delivery have been reported by Council's such as Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend and Newport. The latest Cardiff AMR notes that completion rates are below targets for housing sites in their LDP which was adopted several years before the Swansea LDP. These delays are attributed by that Council to a combination of similar issues relating to site assembly, legal and logistical factors experienced by landowners/developers along with the time required to secure the necessary consents. However it is encouraging that the latest Cardiff AMR also notes that once their major strategic sites started to deliver new homes, this did deliver a significant step change in the number of total housing completions in the County, much like what is forecast to take place in Swansea. It is important to note that in Swansea, whilst allocated strategic sites have taken longer than originally anticipated to progress to a stage that will enable delivery of homes on site, very significant progress has been made on these proposals. The LPA has continued to engage closely with the relevant site promoters and developers since the LDP was prepared and adopted, including at pre-application, application and post application stages. The picture is increasingly positive in this regard with a number of key strategic development areas and housing sites now benefitting from planning permission, and others very close to submitting planning applications with the benefit of many years gearing up to reach that milestone stage. The AMR provides details of these, including those developments that are now on site.
- 2.7 The 3<sup>rd</sup> AMR also highlights that a small number of indicators have flagged a specific need for further investigation and research on certain topics or issues, in some instances alongside policy review. This research will be important as an updated evidence base to inform the RLDP for Swansea. It includes investigating residential windfall site rates; Gypsy and Traveller need and the current availability of pitches; high level viability testing for infrastructure and affordable housing provision; and assessing up to date housing need and housing and employment land requirements. The AMR has also identified that the LDP policy on provision of land for mineral supply requires review, and that policies should be updated to reflect significant new national policy, including that relating to flood risk.
- 2.8 The AMR concludes that the statutory four year full review cycle that applies to the LDP should be seen as an opportunity to undertake a more full review of relevant policies and requirements, in order to gain the fullest understanding of the reasons why some policies have not been implemented as expected. The preparation of a 'Review Report' as part of this process is summarised in section 3 of this report.

### **3.0 Summary of draft Swansea LDP Review Report**

- 3.1 It is a statutory requirement that Council's undertake a comprehensive review of their adopted LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption. This is in order to ensure the LDP, and its supporting evidence, is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions. Given the Swansea LDP was

adopted in February 2019, the LPA has commenced the review process and a Draft LDP Review Report has been formulated (attached at Appendix B).

- 3.2 The draft Swansea LDP Review Report highlights that the latest AMR conclusions point to significant material changes in the strategic planning and societal contexts having arisen since early 2019. The AMR also highlights that whilst the majority of LDP policies and objectives are being implemented effectively, there are some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes not being achieved (red or amber), particularly relating to the delivery of housing development.
- 3.3 The draft Review Report also identifies key contextual changes and underpinning evidence that needs to be re-visited, including matters relating to the future scale of population growth in Swansea, having regard to emerging national data. The matters represent the fundamental building blocks of the LDP and could lead to changes in the scale of housing and employment development required to be delivered, and to the strategy that is linked to that growth. The National Policy context has altered in a number of key areas since adoption of the Swansea LDP, including the publication of the first ever overarching national development plan - Future Wales: the National Plan. Also significant have been the publication of new Technical Advice Notes (TANs), including the impending TAN15 on Flood Risk, two new editions of Planning Policy Wales, new legislation requirements (including sustainable drainage) and new Planning Use Classes.
- 3.4 The draft Review Report highlights that the range of evidence to be updated may well lead to amendments required to thematic and topic specific LDP policies. This include in regard to: the need for, and provision of, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; affordable housing need; high level financial viability of delivering affordable housing and physical infrastructure requirements in the different parts of the County; retail need and provision; transport infrastructure impacts of allocations; the potential need for provision of areas for mineral extraction; and to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.
- 3.5 The huge societal and economic shock caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is a highly significant contextual change that clearly the Swansea LDP had neither envisaged or planned for in terms of policy or strategy. The crisis impacted on delivery of policies and proposals of the current LDP, but moreover has altered behaviours (such as working practises, the propensity to travel, the demand for locally accessible services, etc.) which may have a significant degree of permanence. The Welsh Ministerial Letter to Local Authorities (July 2020) on Planning and the Post COVID-19 Recovery requires LPAs to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs as part of the review/replacement process. In addition to the pandemic, the decision to exit the European Union, together with a range of other national and international factors, have affected the economic and socio-economic context. In combination, these overarching changes form a new backdrop for a replacement Plan for Swansea.
- 3.6 The draft Review Report highlights that the RLDP will need to consider the findings of the latest AMR in respect of the delays incurred on delivering certain LDP allocated sites, specifically whether this necessitates the identification of any alternative or new allocations to deliver updated housing requirements. This would

require a detailed review of undelivered existing allocations and the individual merits and deliverability of other allocations. The need for such a process reflects the requirements of PPW (ed11), which states there must be sufficient sites suitable for the full range of housing types (in accordance with identified local housing market needs) to address the needs of communities. An important part of ensuring a sufficient range of sustainable and deliverable sites are available, is providing an opportunity for all sectors and types of house-builder to contribute to delivering the housing requirement, including nationals, regionals, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), registered social landlords (RSLs), and the custom and self-build sector.

- 3.7 The draft Review Report also identifies that opportunities should be taken to update policies that, although largely working effectively based on the AMR, could benefit from wording changes in order to refine the Plan. The Report highlights examples of such instances, but does not detail every opportunity and the LPA will need to continue to review and refine policies through the RLDP process building on evidence gained from experience of using the policies since Plan adoption. Fundamentally the purpose of the Review Report is not to detail all the changes that will be made to the LDP as it is not possible to fully know all of these at this stage, and the full extent of changes will only be determined through the formal preparation and engagement processes to be undertaken for the RLDP.
- 3.8 The LDP Review Report is also required to determine the appropriate procedural route for replacement Plan preparation, and to identify key issues to be considered when taking the LDP process forward. Fundamentally there are two revision routes available to choose from when considering how to produce a RLDP, which are:
- Undertake a 'Full Revision' process, following the same procedures as used in preparing the current adopted LDP; or
  - Undertake a 'Short Form Revision' (SFR) procedure, where the parameters to be considered are very much more focussed and limited in scope.
- 3.9 SFR procedures are only appropriate where the parameters to be considered are very focussed and limited in scope, and where these do not go to the heart of a Plan. For example a SFR procedure does not apply when a review of the scale and distribution of growth is necessary. In addition, and crucially, the SFR excludes the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation on revised proposals. Consultation and engagement on key strategic planning issues, such as growth requirements, is an important element of the plan preparation process and should not be foregone without clear justification.
- 3.10 Given the review process undertaken of the current LDP, the contextual changes that have been described, and the new regulations governing the requirements for producing replacement Plans, it is clear that the Full Revision procedure is the appropriate form of revision process for the Swansea LDP. Preparation of a Swansea RLDP using this procedure, commencing in 2023, will ensure that effective local decision making in planning can continue on the basis of a comprehensively updated evidence base, in-line with the plan-led approach in Wales required by Welsh Government.



- 3.11 WG Guidance states that, when considering replacement LDPs, Authorities should consider and demonstrate they have exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base. Collaboration is a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and an integral part of the LDP soundness tests. The options for working jointly with other LPAs on the Development Plan has been fully explored, but due to the significant differences that exist in adjoining Authorities in terms of producing their RLDP timelines, it is concluded that the most appropriate option at this time is for the Council to undertake the Swansea LDP review on an individual LPA basis. Notwithstanding this, wherever possible, the LPA will continue to work collaboratively with other neighbouring LPAs on producing a consistent and coherent evidence base across the region. Notable elements of joint work have already commenced in respect of key underpinning evidence and data collation, and work with other LPAs will continue in the future linked to the preparation of the statutory Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for South West Wales.
- 3.12 A key conclusion of the draft Review Report is that Members will need to approve a process of consultation and engagement with the general public and key stakeholders on a draft Delivery Agreement (DA) for the replacement Plan. Further details in relation to the Swansea RLDP DA is provided in section 4 of this report.
- 3.13 The final version of the Review Report, as amended following consultation on the draft document, will be a key part of the evidence base underpinning the form and content of the RLDP and ultimately will be one of the documents that will be submitted to the Inspector for Examination.

#### **4.0 Swansea Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement (DA)**

- 4.1 The preparation of a DA represents a key initial statutory stage in the process to produce a RLDP. Based upon the findings of the draft Swansea LDP Review Report, the draft Swansea RLDP DA has been prepared (attached at Appendix C) in accordance with relevant Welsh Government regulations and guidance. Once the final version is approved by the Council and Welsh Government, this will mark the formal start of the RLDP process, and the Council is therefore committed to the stated timetable and CIS contained within it. It is therefore an essential project management tool to guide the preparation of the RLDP.
- 4.2 The DA sets out how, and over what time period, the process of replacing the Plan will be undertaken. It provides a succinct public statement containing a **Timetable** of the key stages of plan preparation; and a **Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)** detailing how and when the community and stakeholders will be able to get involved in the plan preparation process.
- 4.3 Part 1 of the draft DA sets out the relevant legislative and policy considerations in preparing the RLDP, including the need for it to be informed by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment. It sets out the ongoing regional collaboration the team is undertaking, an overview of the likely evidence base studies likely to inform the RLDP, details of potential Supplementary Planning Guidance preparation and how

the RLDP will be assessed against the prescribed ‘tests of soundness by an Independent Inspector.

- 4.4 Part 2 of the draft DA sets out the detailed timetable and all key dates for the preparation of the plan. The timetable is split into ‘Definitive stages’ which are defined as those under direct control of the Council and ‘Indicative Stages’ which are dependent on other bodies including Planning and Environment Decisions Wales. A summary of the timetable is set out below:

<b>Table 1 – Summary Timetable</b>			
<b>Definitive Stage</b>		<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Delivery Agreement</b> Draft DA Consultation, submission of Final DA to Welsh Government for approval	<b>March /April 2023</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Pre-Deposit Participation</b>  Evidence base preparation  Call for Candidate Sites – 12 weeks  Consultation on SA Scoping Report – 6 weeks  Preparation and Engagement on generation of Vision and Objectives and Strategic Options	<b>July 2023</b>  <b>Jan 2023</b>  <b>Aug 2023</b>  <b>Aug 2023</b>  <b>Sep 2023</b>	<b>June 2024</b>  <b>Ongo ing</b>  <b>Oct 2023</b>  <b>Sep 2023</b>  <b>Jan 2024</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Pre-Deposit Consultation</b>  Consultation on Preferred Strategy, Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report – 8 weeks	<b>July 2024</b>	<b>August 2024</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Deposit Participation/Consultation</b>	<b>June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>

	Consultation on Deposit Plan, ISA, HRA and Initial Consultation Report		
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- 4.5 Following these definitive stages, subsequent dates are categorised as indicative and outside the control of the Council. It is expected that the final Deposit Plan together with any recommended changes will be submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2025. Examination of the plan will be undertaken by an Independent Inspector between January 2026 to July 2026. Following this it is anticipated the Inspectors Report will be published and subject to it being found sound Full Council will adopt the Swansea RLDP in the Autumn of 2026.
- 4.6 The Timetable seeks to ensure that the RLDP can be adopted as expediently as possible and to minimise the period after the current LDP expires on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006. The timetable has also had regard to Welsh Governments expectations that Replacement plans should be prepared in 3.5 years. Based on the above, the Council has sought to set out a realistic timetable of 3 years 3 months from commencement in July 2023 to adoption in September 2026. This would mean on adoption there is 12 years of the plan period remaining (i.e. up to 2038) which is in line with WG guidance.
- 4.7 Part 2 of the DA also outlines the officer resource that will be committed to delivering the LDP, expected input from other service areas, and recognising that a sufficient budget will need to be made available to progress the RLDP to adoption which will be expected to cover expenditure relating to all elements of the RLDP and the Independent Examination
- 4.8 Part 3 of the DA sets out the details of the Community Involvement Scheme including principals for engagement, the types of external groups and internal stakeholders such as Elected Members who will need to be involved in shaping the RLDP. Appendix 3 of the DA identifies specific and general consultation bodies (where appropriate) that will be consulted at appropriate times throughout the process. The CIS sets out the various methods of engagement that maybe undertaken, expectations of stakeholders and the Council as part of the process and the handling of representations and feedback.
- 4.9 A summary of key opportunities for engagement is set out in Part 3 of the DA with the detailed timetable for engagement and potential methods included in Appendix 4 of the DA. Finally the CIS sets out that a LDP consultation database will be established, anticipated to be incorporated as part of a future online consultation and engagement software to allow any stakeholder with an interest in the RLDP to register their interest to be kept informed of RLDP progress and future consultations. The CIS seeks to facilitate meaningful engagement as referred in Section 5 of this Council Report on Consultation and Engagement.

## **5.0 Consultation and Engagement**

- 5.1 Stakeholders in the planning process, including the public, make a valuable contribution in helping to identify and clarify what issues need to be considered when

producing a RLDP, including identifying the extent of likely changes required to the current adopted Plan.

- 5.2 Whilst not a statutory requirement to undertake a consultation exercise on the draft Swansea LDP Review Report, it is proposed to undertake a consultation on the document with specific and general consultation bodies in line with good practice recommendations in the WG Guidance. The LPA will review the consultation responses received and consider the potential implications for both the content of the LDP and the proposed review procedure and any appropriate amendments will be made in the final Review Report. The final Report will then be recommended to Members to approve for submission to Welsh Government, which at that stage will confirm the form and type of review route that the Council will follow in preparing the Swansea RLDP.
- 5.3 Part Three of the Swansea RLDP DA sets out the 'Community Involvement Scheme' for how the Council will engage with stakeholders and the community in the preparation of the new Plan. It is essential that the right people are involved at the right time to build consensus and ensure early and effective stakeholder engagement to shape the spatial strategy, policies and proposals of the plan. The LDP Regulations require the Council to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders in preparing the RLDP including the general public and Specific and General Consultation bodies as appropriate. The DA sets out the key consultation periods with details of engagement at each stage, identifying who will be formally involved in the RLDP process and how and when the participation and consultation will occur.

## **6.0 Integrated Impact Assessment Implications**

- 6.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
  - Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
  - Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
  - Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
  - Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 6.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural

well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 6.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 6.4 An IIA screening has been completed for the AMR (see Appendix D). This identifies that a full IIA is not required. The IIA screening was an update to that undertaken for AMR 1 and 2, which identified similarly low impacts, but also takes into account recent changes to the IIA template. Overall, considering the factual nature of the document it has been considered that no impact on protected groups will result from the AMR. In preparing the AMR, the Council has fulfilled the mandatory consultation requirements of the WG guidance for preparing the AMR. The final AMR will be made available to view on the Council's website and will be provided bilingually to maximise opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.
- 6.5 An IIA screening has been completed for the Swansea LDP Review Report (see Appendix D). This identifies it will result in no impacts on the groups and issues identified and that therefore the Review Report itself does not require an IIA. The Review Report recommends that a Replacement LDP (RLDP) is commenced and IIA will be integrated into the preparation of the Replacement LDP from the earliest opportunity. The Review Report, together with the consultation process, follows legislation and guidance produced by the Welsh Government. Following appropriate stakeholder consultation, the report will be amended where appropriate and Council Members will be asked to approve submission of the final Review Report to Welsh Government.
- 6.6 An IIA screening has been completed for the Swansea RLDP DA (see Appendix D). This identifies that the CIS will facilitate engagement with a number of the selected groups identified in Q2 of the IIA screening. As a result, whilst there are no impacts on certain groups, impacts on a number of selected groups in Q2 of the IIA are considered to be 'medium', as they are specifically listed within the CIS as 'Seldomly Heard Stakeholders'. The impacts of the CIS will therefore be positive, as the CIS seeks to actively engage these groups in the RLDP process through liaison with the Council's coordinator. Given only positive effects are highlighted with no cumulative impacts identified, it is concluded therefore that an IIA is not required. The DA will be subject to a full public consultation exercise in bilingual form to allow engagement from a wide range of stakeholders.
- 6.7 The LDP is fully aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is an integral part of the planning framework and LDP Review process.
- 6.8 The current Swansea LDP (2010-25) has a Plan 'end date' of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. It is therefore important that work on the Replacement LDP commences early in 2023 in order to avoid any prolonged period with no Replacement LDP in place.

## **7.0 Financial Implications**

- 7.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from the publication of the 3<sup>rd</sup> AMR or Review Report. The document production process, including Welsh translation, will be accommodated within existing budgets and staff resources, and utilise largely electronic communication (email and website). The final documents will be made available electronically and hard copies will generally only be produced upon request for an appropriate charge in order to recoup costs incurred. As such printing costs going forward will not be significant and can be met within allocated budgets.
- 7.2 A sufficient budget will be made available to progress the RLDP to adoption within the prescribed timetable in order to discharge the Council's statutory duties. This will cover expenditure relating to all elements of preparation of the RLDP and the independent Examination process.

## **8.0 Legal Implications**

- 8.1 The Council are required to publish and submit an Annual Monitoring Report to Welsh Government under section 76 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (PCPA) 2004.
- 8.2 A Statutory plan review is required at intervals of no longer than 4 years from the date of LDP adoption under the PCPA 2004 (section 69) and Regulation 41. The first stage of the process required by WG is the production of a Review Report. The Swansea LDP Review Report (draft) has been produced following the WG guidance.
- 8.3 The draft Swansea RLDP DA has been prepared in accordance with Welsh Government regulations and guidance, including The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and the Local Development Plans Manual 2020 Edn 3 (The Manual).
- 8.4 The Council will continue to monitor the current adopted LDP in-line with WG requirements and guidance.
- 8.5 The Council has a duty to seek to continually improve in the exercise of its functions (which include where appropriate powers) in terms of strategic effectiveness, service quality and availability, sustainability, efficiency and innovation pursuant to the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

- Appendix A Swansea Local Development Plan 3rd Annual Monitoring Report: 2021-22
- Appendix B Draft Review Report for Consultation
- Appendix C Swansea Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement
- Appendix D Integrated Impact Assessment Implications screening Forms



Cynllyn Datblygu Lleol Abertawe

Trydydd Adroddiad Monitro Blynyddol – Cyfnod 2021-22

Appendix A

Swansea Local Development Plan

3rd Annual Monitoring Report – Period 2021-22



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## Executive Summary

### 1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. It forms the statutory development plan for the City and County of Swansea, under the provisions of Section 38(6) of the Planning Act.

1.2 It is a requirement of the statutory development plan process that, following Plan adoption, the Council prepares an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR). The purpose of the AMR is to quantify how the objectives of the LDP are being achieved, and how its strategy, key policies, allocations and infrastructure requirements are all being delivered. It also serves to identify any challenges, opportunities and contextual changes in which the Plan operates.

1.3 This AMR is the third to be prepared since adoption of the LDP and is **focused on the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022**.

### 2.0 Background and Context

2.1 The LDP Monitoring Framework is set out in Section 4.2 of the LDP and was developed based around the Strategic Policies of the Plan, with indicators to measure the effectiveness of the policies in meeting identified

targets and trigger points beyond which further analysis, guidance, or remedial action may be required if targets are not met. The AMR also integrates the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring of the Plan, to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and enable appropriate remedial action to be taken in-line with the SEA regulations. The Final SA Report of the LDP identified a set of indicators to be used to monitor LDP progress on sustainability issues, which are interlinked with the LDP monitoring indicators. The adopted monitoring framework was based on the WG guidance extant at that time.

2.2 It should be noted that the WG guidance has been updated since the adoption of the Swansea LDP, with the publication of the Development Plans Manual (DPM) Edition 3 (March 2020). The updated WG guidance identifies the indicators required in all Development Plan monitoring frameworks. The majority of these were already covered in the Swansea LDP, but the DPM has introduced some new additional indicators, including significant changes to the method used for monitoring housing delivery. These were added to the Swansea LDP monitoring framework used in AMR 1, and have also been used for AMR 2 and 3. Table 1 of the AMR summarises how the monitoring framework in the AMR

fulfils the WG guidance and where it has been updated to reflect the latest requirements.

- 2.3 The monitoring indicators have a target, which relate to the Plan’s strategy, objectives and policy outcomes; and a trigger point which sets the parameters against which policies should deliver. These are in-line with the updated WG guidance.

### 3.0 Consultation and Engagement

- 3.1 The latest WG guidance has introduced new requirements for mandatory stakeholder engagement on the monitoring of housing delivery. In-line with this guidance, in addition to the close and regular dialogue that the LPA has with developers and RSLs on sites being promoted for development, as well as engagement during regular Council facilitated Developer Forum meetings, the LPA also undertook direct consultation with the development sector through the Home Builders Federation (HBF) Wales. This consultation was undertaken in July 2022.

- 3.2 Following the stakeholder engagement, the Council has reviewed the anticipated trajectory for the sites queried and has made some appropriate adjustments in order to reflect the concerns raised by the industry. The aim will be for the Council to continue to be proactive in facilitating site construction to begin ahead of those forecasts wherever possible.

## 4.0 Summary of Main Findings in the AMR

- 4.1 In-line with the WG guidance, the AMR is structured as follows:

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1 - introduction
- Chapter 2 – review of any changes affecting the context in which the LDP operates, including legislation/national policy and guidance; social, economic and environmental factors.
- Chapter 3 – analysis of the LDP monitoring indicators.
- Chapter 4 – analysis of the SA indicators.
- Chapter 5 – conclusions and recommendations.

### Chapters 1 and 2

- 4.2 The AMR identifies various other national planning policy and guidance changes affecting the planning context of the LDP, including the following significant changes:

- The implications of the amendments to Technical Advice Note 15
- Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR 2021) for all affordable housing
- A new LHMA methodology and toolkit
- Net Zero Wales
- WG changes to address the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets

- 4.3 Chapter 2 of the AMR also reviews the social, economic and environmental context in 2021-22. It notes that the COVID 19 pandemic remains a factor in the monitoring for this year. The pandemic has had a significant impact on some of the activities being monitored (e.g. while traffic flows have increased from low levels during the height of the pandemic, traffic patterns remain markedly altered from pre pandemic habits). The impacts are described at the relevant points throughout the AMR document and may well continue to raise significant issues in AMR 4 going forward.

#### Chapters 3 and 4

- 4.4 The first section of Chapter 3 highlights that Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a requirement to keep their development plans up to date and consider the need for review. **National legislation<sup>1</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive statutory review of the LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption** to ensure the LDP and supporting evidence is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions.
- 4.5 **The LDP was adopted in February 2019. Therefore, to meet this 4 year requirement, a review of the LDP is required to commence by February 2023 at the**

**latest.** On this basis, irrespective of the findings of this monitoring report with regard to individual LDP indicators, it is highlighted that, in-line with the process prescribed by Welsh Government guidance, a statutory plan review is required and that as the first stage of this process, a LDP Review Report needs to be prepared.

- 4.6 Chapter 3 of the AMR confirms that every LDP indicator has been reviewed against the relevant targets, trigger points, and WG guidance and this has shown that, **after the third full year as the adopted Development Plan for the County, overall, the majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation and are shown as green.** There are however, some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes relating to housing and employment land delivery and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches that are not being achieved.
- 4.7 This indicates that these policies are not functioning as intended, and in these instances the monitoring has confirmed that these issues in particular will need to be addressed as part of the statutory 4 year Plan review and preparation of the Replacement LDP. In these instances the monitoring has recommended actions, either for the review of a particular policy (e.g. in relation to policies on specific strategic site allocations (in some cases this is to reflect that the site now has planning consent and so needs to be shown as a commitment

<sup>1</sup> Required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 69(1)) and LDP Regulation 41(1)

rather than as an allocation in the next LDP) and for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision); and others to be taken account more generally in the review of the whole Plan. This is with particular relevance to some other indicators which indicate that the Plan is not delivering the anticipated levels of housing growth to meet the requirements over the Plan period. Table 1 summarises the outcome for all the indicators.

- 4.8 A small number of indicators have been flagged for further investigation and research as a result of the monitoring findings. This research will be routinely required to inform the Replacement LDP and includes investigating residential windfall site rates; the latest published Gypsy and Traveller need; high level viability testing for infrastructure and affordable housing provision; and assessing up to date housing need and housing and employment land requirements. These issues have been identified by the monitoring framework and will inform the research needed for the Replacement LDP, although they do not represent an exhaustive list of the research that will be needed. The LDP evidence base as a whole will need to be updated as part of the 4 year statutory Plan review.

**Table 1: LDP Monitoring Summary for 2021-22 – AMR 3**

Assessment	Action	Number of Indicators
Indicators suggest that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review	Continue Monitoring (Green)	95
Indicators suggest that the Plan Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner.	Training Required (Blue)	0
Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan	SPG required (Purple)	0
Indicators suggest the Plan Policies are not being effective as originally expected.	Further investigation/ research required (Yellow)	5
Indicators suggest that Plan policy/ies are not being implemented.	Policy Review (Orange)	18
Indicators suggest the Plan strategy is not being implemented.	Plan Review (Red)	7

- 4.9 374 homes were built in 2021-22. Housing completions have again been below the Average Annual Requirement (AAR) in 2021-22 as was the case in 2019-20 and 2020-21 following adoption of the LDP in February 2019.
- 4.10 As in other parts of South Wales (AMRs for other urban areas - NPT, Bridgend, Cardiff, and Newport are reporting LDP housing delivery below target levels), significant timelags have been encountered from the

forecasted trajectory in the LDP to deliver the identified housing requirement. On the basis of the latest site forecasts, which have been formulated through engagement with developers and site promoters, the updated forecasted housing supply illustrates that delivery in Swansea is expected to again fall below the AAR rate in the next 12 months on the basis of the sites with planning consent. Housing supply is not expected to exceed the AAR until the subsequent years of the Plan period. This is due to the fact that SDA allocations are expected to comprehensively get underway to deliver significant numbers of new homes, with more than one outlet on these large sites. In addition other sites identified in the updated trajectory will have progressed through the development pipeline to begin delivery of new homes.

- 4.11 It is important to note that delays in the delivery of housing requirements are being experienced across South Wales and this issue is not confined to Swansea. For example, the latest Cardiff AMR notes that completion rates are below targets for housing sites in their LDP which was adopted several years before the Swansea LDP. These delays are attributed to a combination of site assembly, legal and logistical factors experienced by landowners/developers along with the time required to secure the necessary planning and adoption consents. However the latest Cardiff AMR also notes that once

their SDA sites started to deliver new homes, this drove a significant step change in the number of total housing completions in the County. Construction has now started on most of the Cardiff strategic housing sites and it is expected that housing completions over the remaining 4 years of the Plan period will increase significantly. In this context, \*it is important to note that development has now commenced on the first residential led Strategic Development Area in the Swansea LDP (SDA C, Land at Parc Mawr, Penllergaer), during 2022-23, which will be reported in the AMR 4.

- 4.12 There have been highly exceptional circumstances that have influenced the above outcome over the last 2-3 years. In particular, at times within this period dwelling completions have been significantly impacted by the COVID 19 crisis affecting site operations (closure of sites and social distancing), while labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems are also impacting the housebuilding industry<sup>2</sup>. Further factors which have affected housebuilding in Wales are the impact of sustainable drainage requirements since the LDP was adopted, and increased ecology requirements which have all had to be incorporated into the masterplanning process on sites. This has impacted on deliverability timescales.

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<sup>2</sup> Survey of Small and Medium Enterprise housebuilders in the UK (HBF January 2022 press release)



- 4.13 As a consequence of lower than anticipated housing delivery over the initial years of the Plan, to meet the LDP housing target of 15,600 new dwellings over the plan period, an annual build rate of 2,570 new homes will now be needed from 2022 to 2025 in order to fully deliver the LDP housing requirement within the Plan period. This level of delivery is unprecedented and would require numerous sites to come forward at the same time. It is therefore considered highly unlikely that the full LDP housing requirement will be delivered during the LDP period and due to the timelags experienced, some sites will come forward later than expected.
- 4.14 Overall, similarly to other urban areas in South Wales, development of some plan allocations has not progressed as quickly as originally forecasted due to a number of factors and despite the best efforts of the Council to facilitate progress of schemes. While many of the sites included in the LDP are considered to be sound and are progressing, the indicators suggest that the Plan is not being fully implemented as expected and these issues will need to be addressed in the statutory review of the LDP which is now required by Welsh Government Regulations due to the fact that four years has passed since its adoption.
- 4.15 This statutory 4 year review will need to reflect the significant work that has been undertaken by both applicant and LPA to progress a number of the sites to an advanced stage of the planning process. This will ensure that they are well placed to soon deliver homes on site and create excellent examples of new sustainable places, and may well become commitments in the time period before a Replacement LDP is adopted. The Review will nonetheless provide the opportunity to review the deliverability and viability of existing allocations; while at the same time also consider what other appropriate and sustainable sites could contribute to the housing supply where necessary. Any review will also need to take into account the change in evidence of housing requirements since the LDP was adopted.
- 4.16 In terms of affordable housing, 149 affordable homes were built through the planning system in 2021-22, 113 social rented and 36 intermediate tenure, while planning consent was granted in the 12 month period for a further 254 affordable homes. Affordable housing delivery is below the level required to meet the LDP affordable housing targets and the 4 year Plan review will provide the opportunity to update the evidence base with regard to the levels of affordable housing need, viability of affordable housing policy targets, and identification of sites that can make a contribution to fulfilling the updated affordable housing need target.
- 4.17 The proportion of HMOs within the HMO Management Area, as a proportion of the residential properties, has been monitored. Overall, within the HMO Management Area, HMOs were identified as comprising 24.1% of all residential properties. The percentage remains within the +/-2% range identified in the monitoring indicator. The indicator target, to ensure the number of HMOs as

a proportion of the total number of residential properties within the HMO Management Area does not significantly exceed the 25% threshold, has been achieved in 2021-22.

- 4.18 In terms of employment land, in addition to the 3.29 ha consented during 2019-2020, and the 0.8 ha of total employment land granted planning consent in 2020-21, the 2.4 ha consented in 2021-22 equates to a total of 6.5 ha or 10.8% of the overall LDP allocation of 60 ha. It should be noted that the Plan provides a higher level of employment land allocations than the identified employment land requirement of 19 ha. The allocations have been made on a range of sites for different types of investors at sustainable locations across the County, to maximise opportunities for investment and to be flexible to changes in market demand. Therefore it is also useful to note that the amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 34.2% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement.
- 4.19 Significant development at SD J is progressing and sites designated as employment land (even if not B1 use) at SD I and SD K have either been completed or are in the pipeline. By the very nature of employment development, delivery and take up of land will depend on demand from the market which will have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. Activity in most of the SDAs demonstrates a growing demand. There is not cause for concern in that there is no shortage of a supply

of available land of different sizes and location. Nonetheless delivery has fallen below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years in terms of the indicator trigger. Overall, delivery of employment development on the SDAs is behind the estimated schedule, with approximately 3.29 ha delivered against the target of 8 ha by 2022. The 4 year Plan Review will provide the opportunity to reassess the employment land requirement against the supply of potential employment land and the significant employment related development currently in the pipeline on SDAs.

- 4.20 The monitoring identifies priority transport schemes and active travel measures that have been delivered during 2021-22 and that residential development has been progressed in-line with sustainable transport principles.
- 4.21 Since adoption of the LDP and as reported in the previous AMR's due to the onset of the COVID pandemic, vehicle journey times surveys were not possible due to restrictions but also given much reduced traffic levels surveys at this time which would have created a false picture of journey times. Vehicle journey times have though now been analysed for this AMR 3. Overall, they show a reduction on the 2014 base case which informed the LDP evidence base. Whilst this is likely due in part to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, overall daily traffic flows have largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels, but travel habits have changed significantly with a reduction in commuting trips in both morning and evening peak hours.

4.22 Monitoring of other policies such as design and placemaking, Green Infrastructure, Welsh language, the historic and cultural environment, tourism, transport, and safeguarding public health and natural resources has shown that they are being implemented effectively, delivering placemaking objectives and preventing inappropriate development. A small number of minor amendments and clarifications have been made (and highlighted in the relevant parts of this AMR) to monitoring indicators to reflect changes in data availability and context; or to clarify what the indicator seeks to record.

## Chapter 5 - Summary of Main Conclusions

4.23 AMR 3 has identified that, with the LDP having been adopted nearly 4 years ago, a Statutory plan review is now required in order to prepare a Replacement LDP.

4.24 This third phase of monitoring has shown that in broad terms many of the plan policies are working effectively. The majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation, thereby providing an indication that the LDP is delivering many significant benefits to communities across the County. There are however, some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes relating primarily to housing delivery and employment related development and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches that are not being achieved with time lags being experienced in the delivery of sites.

This indicates that these policies may not be functioning as intended and as a consequence, this is undermining the ability of the LDP to fully deliver upon the growth requirements. The statutory 4 year LDP review provides an opportunity to address these issues .

4.25 The AMR has also identified that the LDP policy on provision of land for mineral supply requires review; and policies be updated to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk. Changes in national, regional and local policy and circumstances will need to be reflected. As well as Future Wales this includes the new regional planning agendas, the emerging proposals of the SW Wales Metro, and the latest Local Wellbeing Plan context. The statutory 4 year Plan review should be seen as an opportunity to review these policies and to gain an understanding of any reasons why some policies have not been implemented as expected.

4.26 Due to the time that has elapsed since the LDP was adopted, the Swansea LDP now needs to be the subject of the statutory four year full review cycle in-line with Welsh Government Regulations. As such all aspects of the Plan will need to be assessed to consider if they remain sound and fit for purpose. It is important therefore that the Council progresses with the statutory review of the LDP, to address in particular the policy issues highlighted by the monitoring undertaken to date. The next stage of Plan review requires the preparation of a 'Review Report' that will be reported to Council. The primary functions of a Review Report are to determine

the appropriate procedural route for replacement Plan preparation, and to identify key issues to be considered when taking the LDP process forward.

4.27 Furthermore, the current Swansea LDP (2010-25) will cease to be operational as a statutory development plan following its end date of 31st December 2025. It is therefore important that work on the Replacement LDP

commences in 2023 in order to avoid a prolonged period with no Replacement LDP in place.

4.28 The content of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring findings will be essential and important components to take into account at the review stage.

## Chapter 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by Swansea Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019 and forms the development plan for the City and County of Swansea under the provisions of Section 38(6) of the Planning Act.
- 1.2 As part of the statutory development plan process, following adoption of the LDP, the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) setting out how the objectives of the Plan are being achieved, how the strategy, key policies, allocations and infrastructure requirements are being delivered, and identifying any challenges, opportunities and contextual changes in which the Plan operates. The Council must publish an AMR and submit it to Welsh Government (WG) each year, starting with the first full financial year (April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>) following adoption of the Plan.
- 1.3 The Council published its first AMR in 2020 covering the period 2019-20. While, due to the COVID 19 pandemic WG had written<sup>3</sup> to all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to state that it did not require them to submit AMRs to WG that year, the Council recognised the importance of continuing to monitor the effectiveness of the Plan and published AMR 1. In

summary the key conclusion from AMR 1 was that ‘overall the monitoring showed that the strategy and LDP policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review’.

- 1.4 The second AMR was published in 2021 covering the period 2020-21. It concluded that the LDP strategy and its key policies and targets remain relevant, appropriate and up-to-date and good progress is being made towards achieving them. It noted that further investigation was required with regard to the delivery of housing sites, in particular a number of allocated Strategic Development Areas (SDAs), to inform the Council’s efforts in continuing to proactively work with developers and site promoters to bring forward the adopted LDP housing supply targets. Fundamentally, AMR 2 established that there was no cause for Plan review at that time.
- 1.5 This document is the third AMR of the Swansea LDP (to be known as AMR 3) and covers the period April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022. Like the previous AMRs, it is based on the monitoring framework set out in Section 4.2 of the LDP. The AMR has been prepared in-line with Welsh Government (WG) regulations and guidance. As reported in AMR 1 and 2, following the

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<sup>3</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> July 2020 Letter to LPAs

publication of the Development Plans Manual Edition 3 (March 2020), additional indicators have been added to the monitoring framework (see paragraph 3.2 and Table 2 of this report). These were added to the monitoring framework used in AMR 1, and have also been used for AMR 2 and AMR 3.

- 1.6 The disruption caused by the COVID 19 pandemic has continued to have some impact both on the activities being monitored and the level of information available to undertake effective monitoring to inform this third AMR. The impacts are described at the relevant points throughout this document.
- 1.7 This AMR also integrates the findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring of the Plan, to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and enable appropriate remedial action to be taken in-line with the SEA regulations. The Final SA Report of the LDP identifies a set of indicators that will be used to monitor LDP progress on sustainability issues. These are interlinked with the LDP monitoring indicators, but are set out separately (in Chapter 4) in this AMR from the LDP monitoring (Chapter 3) in order to measure the environmental, economic and social impacts of the LDP. This AMR accords with the requirements for monitoring the sustainability performance of the Plan through the SEA Regulations (2004) and the

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended 2011).

- 1.8 The remainder of this AMR is structured as follows:
- Chapter 2 – a review of significant changes affecting the context within which the LDP operates, including any changes in relevant legislation, national/regional/local policies/strategies; and socio-economic and environmental factors.
  - Chapter 3 – begins with a brief overview of the LDP monitoring framework and highlights the additional indicators required by the updated WG guidance. It then focuses on an analysis of the LDP monitoring indicators, structured under the headings of the Strategic Policies; considering in each section the core/key indicators (required by WG in all LDPs), and the local indicators specifically defined for Swansea.
  - Chapter 4 – analysis of the SA indicators and integrated assessment and linkages with the LDP monitoring.
  - Chapter 5 – conclusions and recommendations.

## Chapter 2. Significant Contextual Changes

### Overview

2.1 This chapter provides a summary of the relevant significant changes affecting the context within which the LDP operated during 2021-22, including changes in relevant legislation; national, regional, and local policies and strategies; and social, economic, and environmental factors.

### **Legislation and National Planning Policy and Guidance**

2.2 **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15:** To ensure the planning system plays a full part in adaptation to climate change, a revised version of TAN 15 was made available by Welsh Government (WG) on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021, in advance of the 1st December 2021 date on which WG had intended it would come formally into effect. However, to enable LPAs to fully consider the impact of the climate change projections on their respective areas, the coming into force of the new TAN 15 and associated new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) was suspended until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

2.3 The FMfP will represent a markedly different context for planning decisions compared to the existing framework, and will show areas expected to become at risk of flooding with climate change, in addition to those areas which are at risk from flooding in the present day. It will also provide information on surface water flood risks and show areas at risk of coastal erosion.

2.4 Of particular relevance to any future review of the LDP, WG has written to LPAs<sup>4</sup> requiring that when Development Plans are reviewed, the flood risk considerations that feed into the settlement strategy and site allocations must be in accordance with the new TAN 15 and the FMfP. The SFCA will be the principal source of evidence to inform those elements of the plan and locally specific flood risk policies. When drafting policies on flood risk the focus should be on site specific details and locally specific approaches, as there is no need to repeat national policies. The development plan should complement the local flood strategy, by identifying key risks and setting out where flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes are to be located.

2.5 To accompany the publication of the TAN, a new Notification Direction will be introduced, that when a

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<sup>4</sup> Chief Planners letters from WG 23 November and 15 December 2021

LPA is minded to grant planning permission for new highly vulnerable development, it must notify the Welsh Ministers to allow them the opportunity to call-in the decision. This is a further demonstration of the WG's determination to prevent inappropriate new development that places people at risk of harm from flooding.

- 2.6 The Development Advice Map supporting the extant TAN 15 is considered out of date by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), with no updates having been made for over 2 years and no future updates expected. The new FMfP is therefore considered by NRW to be the best available spatial information held on flood risk and is being updated every 6 months. On 15 December 2021, Welsh Government's Chief Planner issued a letter to clarify that the FMfP may be regarded as a material consideration. Therefore, NRW have confirmed that they will be considering both the DAM and the FMfP as part of the consultation process and provide comments accordingly. The new TAN 15 and FMfP is therefore a key consideration for planning decisions and the future review of the LDP going forward.
- 2.7 WG published in July 2021 **Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR 2021) - Creating Beautiful Homes and Places**. All affordable housing, including that provided through planning obligations and planning conditions, must meet the Welsh Government's development quality standards,

especially the DQR standard. WG encourages housing providers and their consultants to aim for standards beyond the minimum requirements specified here and to adopt a holistic view of quality. WG have also set an ambition for private developers to adopt the standards by 2025.

- 2.8 The new standards promote good design and generous space, so people live well within their homes. This is not only aimed to boost wellbeing and keep communities together, but to respond to the changing needs of residents. Homes will need to reach the highest energy efficiency standards to reduce carbon use during building and when inhabited. Beyond low carbon targets, it also recognises the requirement for new properties to be 'gigabit ready', meaning fibre optic broadband or gigabit wireless technology is available, alongside a choice of internet service providers. Particularly relevant with the moves towards flexible working.
- 2.9 **Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs)** - a new methodology for undertaking LHMAs, including a tool and accompanying guidance, became operational on 31 March 2022. It is to be used as the only basis of evidence for the calculation of housing need in Wales from now on. As such all new LDPs should be based on the outputs of the new methodology.



- 2.10 **Net Zero Wales:** The recent publication of Welsh Government’s new ‘Net Zero Wales,’ setting out the next steps (to 2025) to net zero by 2050, has called on “every citizen, community, group and business in Wales to embed the climate emergency in the way they think, work, play and travel”. The report recognises the importance for our economic future in responding to the environmental challenges represented by the climate emergency. The positive behavioural changes adopted as a result of the pandemic by the public, including more walking and cycling and an appreciation of green space and biodiversity, must influence the way that we approach climate change adaptation, mitigation and investment. Alongside this, the first All Wales Plan has been published, which demonstrates the commitment from partners in working together to reach Net Zero.
- 2.11 **To address issues of affordability and the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets on communities and the Welsh language** On 6 July 2022”, following a consultation earlier in 2021-22, the Minister for Climate Change set out an “ambitious three-pronged approach as follows:
- support - addressing affordability and availability of housing;
  - regulatory framework and system - covering planning law and the introduction of a statutory registration scheme for holiday accommodation;
  - a fairer contribution - using national and local taxation systems to ensure second home owners make a fair and effective contribution to the communities in which they buy.
- 2.12 As part of this approach, changes to the planning system have been announced in July 2022 to support local authorities in managing the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets in their areas. These include changes to planning regulations which will introduce three new planning use classes – a primary home, a second home and short-term holiday accommodation. LPAs, where they have evidence, will be able to make amendments to the planning system to require planning permission for change of use from one class to another. WG will also introduce changes to national planning policy to give local authorities the ability to control the number of second homes and holiday lets in any community.
- 2.13 **Changes to Permitted Development:** To support the reopening of businesses and efforts to create safe environments and enable the public to feel confident to return to the high street, WG temporarily relaxed planning control for specified development through amendments to the GPDO (the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No.2) (Wales) Order 2021) introducing new pd rights for changes of use within town centre boundaries to give landlords and businesses a small

amount of breathing space to trial changes of use to uses of similar planning impacts for a short time.

- 2.14 Changes of use were permitted for a six-month period beginning with the date on which the development began and to end on or before 29 April 2022, unless planning permission is granted for the retention of the use.
- 2.15 **Llwybr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy (2021)** - The new transport strategy for Wales sets out the WG vision for how the transport system can help deliver priorities for Wales. It sets out the 5 year and 20 year priorities, along with nine mini plans explaining how they will be delivered for different transport modes and sectors. The strategy requires governments, local authorities, transport providers (both commercial and third sector) and colleagues in other policy areas to work together to ensure that transport contributes to the current and future well-being of Wales. This national strategy sets the framework for the two tiers of transport plans in Wales – the National Transport Finance Plan and Joint Local Transport Plans. These plans will inform future review of the LDP.
- 2.16 **Active Travel Act Guidance (2021)** - This guidance, which replaces previous guidance on Active Travel, is split into two parts. Part 1 provides an outline summary of the aims, processes and key considerations associated with the duties of the Active Travel (Wales) Act (2013). Part 2, provides detailed technical advice

on how infrastructure should be planned and designed. This guidance explains that Active Travel Network Maps should be used to inform the preparation and review of LDPs, with reference given to the requirement within PPW for these maps to inform site allocations.

### ***Regional Context***

- 2.17 **South West Wales Regional Planning Group** - With regard to the new planning regime in Wales, the introduction of four regions and the requirement for Strategic Development Plans, work has continued with Swansea Strategic Planning Officers involved in leading on specific projects and contributing to the regional agenda, while also working closely with other regions in Wales. Swansea officers have continued to successfully lead the regional collaboration project alongside consultants Burrows-Hutchinson Ltd, to establish the use of a robust and user-friendly Development Viability Model (DVM tool) for the financial viability of development proposals. Officers have continued to lead the Mid and South West Wales Regional Viability Group on the operation of the model and the sharing of best practice and information, training, and the creation of useful templates, in relation to viability assessments to ensure a consistent and robust approach across the region.

- 2.18 Given the LDP will need to be reviewed at some point in the future and considering the future introduction of a SDP for South West Wales, officers are currently scoping out the potential for working collaboratively with neighbouring authorities on updating and aligning key evidence base elements across the region, including a joint Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Economic and Housing Growth Assessment commission and also a jointly commissioned Local Housing Market Assessment; and work across the Region's LPAs to identify the extent of the National Growth Area. This will inform future Development Plan work for each LPA and the future SDP.
- 2.19 **Swansea Bay City Deal progress** – the City Deal, established in 2017, will part-fund a programme of major transformational projects across Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, and Pembrokeshire over the coming years. The first £18 million of City Deal funding has been released by WG and UK Government, based on the approval of two City Deal projects, one of which is in Swansea - the City and Waterfront Digital District. Construction on the indoor arena forming part of the Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District project was completed in 2021-22. Planning consent was also granted for the digital village on the Kingsway during 2020 and construction is underway. Both sites form integral elements of the LDP Strategic Development Area covering the Central Area and Waterfront (SD J) and will deliver on key regeneration and Placemaking objectives for these areas.
- 2.20 **South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP)** - The Council recently adopted the South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP) as the Council's over-arching economic regeneration policy to replace the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy. The REDP complements the new Welsh Government Regional Economic Framework (REF) and provides a further layer of detail below the REF, outlining the objectives and actions that will deliver against the high level vision in the REF. The REDP sets out an ambitious 'route map' for the development of the region's economy over the next ten years, identifying priorities for intervention and setting out how business, government, education, voluntary/ community organisations, social enterprises and other partners can work together to bring them forward.
- 2.21 The strategic direction of the plan will be overseen jointly by four local authorities (Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire) through a new South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The Regional Economic Delivery Plan identifies three ambitions for building a South West Wales that is: "resilient and sustainable; enterprising and ambitious; and balanced and inclusive". These ambitions support three complementary missions: Establishing South

West Wales as a UK leader in renewable energy and the development of a net zero economy, which involves taking forward the region's major energy related projects and driving the benefits through the region. Building a strong, resilient, and 'embedded' business base by supporting business and entrepreneurship through technology, infrastructure and public sector support. Growing and sustaining the 'experience' offer by linking environmental quality, quality of life and community character.

- 2.22 **Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro** – Future Wales contains a policy to develop a south west Wales Metro to create a new integrated transport system that provides faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail. Transport for Wales is developing Metro concepts for a number of areas across Wales. The concepts are to provide an accessible, integrated and comprehensive network using a variety of modes such as heavy rail, tram-train, light rail and bus as appropriate to individual routes. Feasibility design and operational assessment and appraisals of various options to improve rail services and facilities in South West Wales are ongoing and will need to be monitored, for example to inform the future Review of the LDP.

### ***Local Context***

- 2.23 A number of **supplementary planning guidance**

**(SPG)** documents were adopted by Planning Committee on 22nd October 2021 following public consultations. The Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands SPG provides guidance on how the LDP should be applied to planning applications when dealing with all existing, retained and newly planted trees, hedgerows and woodland on development sites.

- 2.24 Design and placemaking remain at the heart of the Council's strategic planning agenda. Placemaking guidance was adopted for the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This provides a practical tool to ensure any development in and around the AONB respects the local character and follows policies set out in the LDP including placemaking objectives and design principals. Additionally, the Council adopted a set of guidance documents on placemaking for residential development. These three SPG set out to provide clear and consistent guidance on matters relating to placemaking and design for all types of residential and mixed-use development. These include developments of 10 and more homes; infill and backland development of between 1-10 homes within existing communities; and guidance for Householder development relating to alterations and extensions to existing home.

- 2.25 Swansea Public Services Board has prepared its second Assessment of Local Well-being for public

consultation in March 2022. This will help Swansea Public Services Board identify a focused number of well-being objectives that will contribute to the national well-being goals as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This evidence base will be used to develop Swansea's **Local Well-being Plan**.

- 2.26 The **Swansea Council Corporate Plan** sets out priorities for 2021-22 including: Transforming our economy and infrastructure - so that Swansea has a thriving mixed-use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens; Tackling poverty - so that every person in Swansea can achieve his or her potential; and Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity - so that we maintain and enhance biodiversity, reduce our carbon footprint, improve our knowledge and understanding of our natural environment and benefit health and well-being.
- 2.27 In 2019, Swansea Council declared a Climate Emergency and followed this up with an action plan to reduce organisational emissions, a policy review to tackle climate change as part of everything the Council does and plans for engagement to work with partners and citizens in striving for a net zero carbon Swansea by 2050. The Council recognises that

biodiversity loss is every much as serious to future survival as climate change and has proposed through a Notice of Motion (4th November 2021) that, in support of WG's declaration of a nature emergency, the Council declares a nature emergency and commits fully to preparing and delivering a Nature Recovery Action Plan to be implemented in tandem with the developing Climate Action Plan. Swansea Council has signed an organisational Climate Change Charter 3 December 2020. This is to build on and accelerate the good work that reduced carbon emissions by 55% from 2010 levels. The Council has an organisational target of a net zero Swansea Council by 2030 and for a net zero Swansea by 2050.

- 2.28 In terms of the economy, in May 2022 the Bank of England reported<sup>5</sup> that global inflationary pressures have intensified sharply following the Ukraine war which has led to a material deterioration in the outlook for world and UK growth. These developments have exacerbated greatly the combination of adverse supply shocks that the UK and other countries continue to face. Inflation has risen mainly due to the large increases in global energy and tradable goods prices due to supply chain disruption and the shift in global demand towards durable goods, both relating to the pandemic. There have been signs from indicators of retail spending and consumer confidence

<sup>5</sup> Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee Report – February 2021

that the squeeze on real disposable incomes is starting to weigh on the household sector. Contextual economic indicators are reported in Chapter 3 of this document.

2.29 Savills have reported that the Welsh housing market has performed strongly in 2021 due to pent-up demand and the extended Land Transaction Tax (LTT) holiday. House prices in Wales grew by 15.3% in the year to September 2021 (Nationwide). Despite this, Savills reported that they expect price growth to slow into 2022 and activity to return towards pre-Covid levels into 2022 (Savills Welsh Housing Market and Supply Update – November 2021). Nonetheless Wales is expected to outperform the UK average growth rate with anticipated growth of 4.0% in Wales in 2022. At a UK level some softening of demand for homes has been recorded in Q2 2022 as it has been reported that pandemic drivers have begun to fade

and living costs and the cost of borrowing rise (Savills Prime Regional Markets (Q2 2022); and Knight Frank Property Market Update June 2022) following 2 years of strong growth.

2.30 Delivery in the housebuilding sector has been affected by ongoing supply chain issues with key building materials and trades; and cost increases.

2.31 BREXIT is also likely to have impacts on the economy over the coming years. These effects will become clearer over time and this will continue to be considered in respect of the LDP and subsequent monitoring.

2.32 As with AMR 1 and 2, COVID continues to impact on the ability to efficiently report on some monitoring indicators for this AMR.

## Chapter 3. Monitoring the LDP

### ***Maintaining an Up to Date LDP***

- 3.1 Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a requirement to keep their development plans up to date and consider the need for review. **National legislation<sup>6</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive statutory review of the LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption to ensure the LDP and supporting evidence is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions.**
- 3.2 **The LDP was adopted in February 2019. Therefore, to meet the 4 year requirement, a review of the LDP is required to commence by February 2023 at the latest. On this basis, it is the case that irrespective of the findings of this monitoring report, in-line with the process prescribed by Welsh Government guidance a statutory plan review is required. The first stage of that process is the production of a LDP Review Report.**

### ***Overview of the Monitoring Indicators***

- 3.3 The remainder of this chapter consider the LDP monitoring indicators. The LDP Monitoring Framework was developed based around the Strategic Policies of the Plan, with indicators to measure the effectiveness of the policies in meeting identified targets and trigger points beyond which remedial action may be required if targets are not met. The monitoring framework was based on the WG guidance extant at that time.
- 3.4 Updated WG guidance identifies the indicators required in all Development Plan monitoring frameworks. The majority of these were already covered by the LDP monitoring framework, but any that were not have been added for the purposes of the AMRs. Table 2 summarises how the monitoring framework in the LDP fulfils the WG guidance and where it has been updated to reflect the latest requirements. It is also noted that the DPM states that trigger points that have specific numerical outputs (e.g. housing completions/ employment land take up) should be measured over two consecutive years (annual delivery rates not the number of AMRs submitted) allowing for trends to develop and become clearly identifiable.

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<sup>6</sup> Required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 69(1)) and LDP Regulation 41(1)

- 3.5 The monitoring indicators have a target, which relates to the Plan’s strategy, objectives and policy outcomes; and a trigger point which sets the parameters against which policies should deliver.
- 3.6 It is not necessarily anticipated that a failure to meet an established target or breaching a trigger will automatically result in a review of the policy. The first

course of action will normally include a thorough analysis of the reason(s) for the failure and a broader assessment of the implications as far as the successful implementation of the Plan is concerned. The AMR will identify any policy that is not being implemented in the anticipated manner. It will outline steps that will be taken to address the issues identified.

**Table 2: Indicators Required in DPM Edition 3 Cross Referenced to Indicators in this AMR**

DPM Edition 3 Guidance	AMR LDP Indicator Reference
<b>Indicators Required by Legislation</b>	
Number of net additional affordable and market dwellings built in the LPA area. LDP Regulation 37. All AMRs must include the annual affordable and market housing completions in the plan area.	Indicator 6
<b>Key Indicators Applicable to all Plans</b>	
Spatial distribution of housing development. To monitor housing completions each year in line with the growth strategy and the settlement hierarchy	Indicators 6b and 8
The annual level of housing completions monitored against the Average Annual Housing Requirement (AAR)  The components of housing supply, including site allocations, large and small windfalls should also be monitored separately	New indicator 5a added to cover AAR.  Supply components are monitored by indicator 7-7d.
Total cumulative completions monitored against the anticipated cumulative completion rate.	Indicator 5b (new).



DPM Edition 3 Guidance	AMR LDP Indicator Reference
The level of affordable housing completions monitored against the Plan's overarching target.	Indicator 6a
The tenure of affordable housing completions.	Indicator 6a <sub>ii</sub> (new)
Employment land take-up against allocations.	Indicator 11.
Job growth in line with the strategy.	Indicator 16a (new)
Delivery of the affordable housing policy - thresholds and percentage targets for each sub-market area.	Indicator 78
Viability. LPA should monitor trends (positive and negative) in key determinants of market conditions and viability such as, house prices, land values, build costs.	Indicator 81.
The rate of development on key allocations (completions linked to phasing trajectories and infrastructure schemes, where appropriate).	Indicators 7, 11 and 27-69
The delivery of key infrastructure that underpins the plan strategy.	Indicators 2 and 4

DPM Edition 3 Guidance	AMR LDP Indicator Reference
<p>The completion of Gypsy and Traveller sites to meet identified need. This will monitor the development of allocated Gypsy and Traveller sites to meet identified need over the full plan period.</p> <p>A separate indicator will also be required to monitor and make provision for any newly arising need outside of the GTAA.</p>	<p>Indicator 9</p> <p>Indicator 9a (new)</p>
<p>The scale/type of highly vulnerable development permitted within C2 flood risk.</p>	<p>Indicator 106</p>
<p><b>Locally Specific and Contextual Indicators</b></p>	
<p>Local Indicators. Policy/topic specific indicators should be defined by each LPA specific to their area and considered against the importance of monitoring the effectiveness of the plan's strategy.</p>	<p>Numerous indicators.</p>
<p>Contextual Indicators. These should be defined by each LPA and involve the consideration of influences at a strategic level to describe the economic, social and environmental conditions within which the development plan operates.</p>	<p>Numerous indicators.</p>
<p><b>Linkages to SA/SEA Monitoring</b></p>	
<p>SA /SEA. The plan will need to consider the linkages between the SEA/SA monitoring process and the LDP monitoring process to avoid duplication. Opportunities for joint reporting should be maximised.</p>	<p>Chapter 4</p>

**Table 3: Adopted LDP Monitoring Options**

ASSESSMENT	ACTION
<b>Continue Monitoring (Green)</b>	
Indicators suggest that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review.	No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.
<b>Training Required (Blue)</b>	
Indicators suggest that the Plan Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner.	Officer and/or member training may be required.
<b>Supplementary Planning Guidance Required (Purple)</b>	
Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan	Publish additional Supplementary Planning Guidance
<b>Further Research (Yellow)</b>	
Indicators suggest the Plan Policies are not being effective as originally expected.	Further research and investigation required, including looking at contextual information about the County or topic area.
<b>Policy Review (Orange)</b>	
Indicators suggest that Plan policy/ies are not being implemented.	Full investigation into why the Plan policies are not being implemented which may lead to a formal review of the Plan policy/ies.
<b>Plan Review (Red)</b>	
Indicators suggest the Plan strategy is not being implemented.	Full investigation into why Plan strategy is not being implemented which may determine a formal review of the Plan is required.

3.7 A review of the indicators as part of the monitoring process has necessitated minor amendments of the wording of a small number of indicators to ensure they can be efficiently and effectively monitored and to account for changes in data availability. The minor amendments made to the indicators and reasons for them are noted in the relevant sections of the AMR.

3.8 Table 3 sets out the options available to the Council with respect to each LDP monitoring indicator, when monitoring against the target and trigger point, and these are in-line with the updated WG guidance. From this point onwards, Chapter 3 provides an analysis of the performance for each LDP indicator during 2021-22 structured under the following headings:

- Policy PS 1: Sustainable Places
- Policy PS 3: Sustainable Housing Strategy
- Policy PS 4: Sustainable Employment Strategy
- Policy SD 1: Strategic Development Sites
- Policy SD 2: Masterplanning Principles
- Policy RC 1: Swansea Central Area Regeneration
- Policy IO 1: Supporting Infrastructure and Planning Obligations
- Policy ER 2: Strategic Green Infrastructure Network
- Policy SI 1: Health and Well-being
- Policy TR 1: Tourism and Recreation Development
- Policy ER 1: Climate Change
- Policy T 1: Transport Measures and Infrastructure
- Policy RP 1: Safeguarding Public Health and Natural Resources
- Policy HC 1: Historic and Cultural Environment
- SPG preparation

3.9 In each section, an analysis has been undertaken of the required/key indicators, and then an analysis of local or contextual indicators specifically defined in the LDP for Swansea.

3.10 All information presented is up to date as of April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022.

### ***Policy PS 1: Sustainable Places***

3.9 Policy PS 1 sets out a sustainable settlement strategy which directs future growth to the most sustainable locations within the defined settlement boundaries of the urban area and Key Villages; safeguards and protects the character and openness of Green Wedges; and resists inappropriate development in the countryside. There are 4 indicators covering this topic.

3.10 Each of these indicators is considered in detail below. Indicator 1 monitors planning consents for development outside the settlement boundaries of the defined urban area and Key Villages.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	PS 3, PS 4, CV 2
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>1. Local Indicator: Number of planning applications for development permitted outside defined settlement boundaries of the urban area and Key Villages contrary to the LDP Policy Framework.</b>	Development in the countryside to be limited to exceptional circumstances.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	117 planning applications permitted outside defined settlement/key village boundaries in 2019-20. The decisions reflected the LDP policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No decisions permitted during 2020-21 contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Two relevant decisions permitted outside settlement boundary during 2021-22, but these were permitted as technical departures to the LDP and the decisions were subject to exceptional circumstances in-line with the indicator target
<b>Analysis:</b>			
During the monitoring period 2021-22 the Council permitted some planning applications outside identified settlement boundaries and key villages but many of these decisions were largely related to Householder applications, Agricultural buildings, replacement dwellings and tourism related development and the decisions accorded with the LDP policy framework. However, over the monitoring period the following applications were permitted and whilst fully assessed against the LDP policy framework constitute technical departures:			

- **2021/2001** - Change of Use of former children's day care nursery (D1) to residential dwelling (C3) - Former Tree Tops Day Nursery, Clyne Common - The proposal was for a dwelling in the countryside in order to bring the unused premises back into viable use. It was determined that whilst the proposal would not be directly in accord with the Council's sustainable housing strategy and Policy CV2, in balancing the fact that the site is within the countryside, it was determined that granting consent would secure the reuse of a vacant, redundant building avoiding the premises falling into further disrepair, thus detracting from the landscape, and for which some exceptional/extenuating circumstances applied in this case whilst acknowledging that such a development would not comply fully with the aforementioned policy. On balance it was considered the proposal represented an acceptable technical departure to Policy CV 2 in this instance.
- **2021/1782** - The stationing of caravans for residential purposes for 4 no gypsy traveller pitches. Variation of conditions 3 and 4 of planning permission granted on appeal to allow for permanent use of the site by gypsies/travellers - Land at Drummau House, Birchgrove Swansea. The use was granted a temporary consent under the previous UDP. The proposal for permanent use of the site for gypsy traveller use is at variance with Policy CV2 given its countryside location and would be at variance with Policy ER3 as located in a Green Wedge. However, it was determined that, on balance, having regard to previous permissions and critically the lack of suitable available Gypsy and Traveller pitches within the County to accommodate the family, together with the personal circumstances of the family, it was considered in this particular instance there were very exceptional circumstances demonstrated to outweigh these considerations and to grant a permanent, personal planning permission.

Although a trigger point has been reached these applications were fully assessed against the policy framework and whilst they represent technical departures from policy, they were limited to exceptional circumstances in line with the target for this monitoring indicator. Accordingly, there is no further action required. Overall development is being directed towards the most sustainable places within the defined settlement boundaries.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

- 3.11 WG guidance requires that the delivery of key infrastructure that underpins the Plan strategy is monitored. Indicators 2, 3, and 4 fulfil this requirement for the allocated housing sites in the Plan, and monitor the delivery of sustainable places.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>PS 2, SD policies, IO 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>2. Key Indicator: Provision of community facilities and infrastructure on SDAs in accordance with the Site Masterplan and policy.</b>	All development on SDAs to be supported by community facilities and infrastructure.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Sites adopted in the Plan	Community facilities and infrastructure not delivered in accordance with the policy framework or within the agreed phased period on an SDA.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Sites being progressed in line with the Site Masterplans and policies	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>Planning permission was granted on some of the SDAs during 2021-22. A commentary is provided on each of these below. Each SDA is considered in more detail later in this report under Indicators 27-69.</p> <p><b>SD B</b> – Outline planning consent was granted in December 2020 for up to 750 homes, 2.5 form entry primary school, circa 280sqm of flexible A1-A3/D1 floorspace, open space, play provision and improvements to the highway network including active travel provision. A S106 was signed to secure 20% Affordable Housing, Local Highway Improvements, provision of a new school, cyclepath contribution, local enhancement works for existing footpaths, management plans for future maintenance of woodland, ecologically sensitive areas and the parks and opens spaces, and bus subsidy payment. In July 2021 the Council approved detailed RM applications for details of access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping for 705 dwellings, POS, hierarchy of street networks, provision of local centre, habitat retention (2019/2905/RES) and for details of landscaping for the whole site (2019/2906/RES). The proposal now provides 705 dwellings, a significant amount of public open spaces (5ha), a 3.2ha orchard park containing a NEAP, LEAP, MUGA, bike tracks and a further LEAP and additional LAP's across the rest of the site and 8 pedestrian and cycle links to surrounding area. In terms of highways significant</p>				

S106 contributions for local highways improvements have been secured. A new roundabout is proposed to connect the access to Hospital Road and a secondary access to the site has been designed to serve a max of 150 dwellings and school drop off point. A new priority junction is proposed to connect this access road to Swansea Road. New pedestrian and cycle links proposed between the site and Gorseinon district centre to maximise sustainable transport links. 141 affordable dwellings are proposed equating to the 20% requirement. The community commercial space comprise 560sqm in two buildings specified for the A1-A3 and D1 use classes. Significant multifunctional Green Infrastructure is provided across the site. Ultimately the collaborative approach undertaken by the Council and developer is considered a potential exemplar of the Placemaking approach for residential developments. The proposal does suitably accord with LDP Policy and deliver the placemaking and development requirements in Policy SD B. Based upon the submitted information there is a significant opportunity for this site to become a connected place, a green place, a distinctive place and potentially an exemplar of a GI led placemaking approach by a mass housebuilder. It is considered the landscaping of the development under 2019/2906/FUL has sufficient regard for its location and placemaking principles contained in PS2 and SD B.

**SD C** - Outline planning consent was granted to Bellway Homes in 2020-21 for a hybrid planning application for the whole site of up to 850 dwellings and a detailed element for the first phase of 184 units (2018/2697/OUT). A Section 106 Agreement was signed for the provision of infrastructure and community facilities in January 2021. AMR 2 previously reported that the proposals for both the Outline and detailed reserved matters application are considered to have followed a robust placemaking approach in line with LDP Placemaking principles. During AMR 3 the Council determined a number of Discharge of condition applications for this permission.

**SD I** – During 2021-2022 consent was granted for a new employment development on 1.89ha of land for a major car sales dealership. The Council also dealt with a number of Discharge of Conditions applications associated for this application during the year. Whilst the proposed use does not fall within B1 or B2, it is a business/commercial regional employment opportunity in the Riverside Business Park which Policy SDI seeks to support.

**SD J** – A number of significant regeneration developments have been permitted and some implemented within the Swansea Central Area as reported in previous AMR's. The transformational Copr Bay Arena was completed during 2021-2022. In addition a number of significant applications were determined. The schemes as set out in indicator 56 include the provision of significant new employment B1 floorspace, a new Community Hub for the Council providing library, archives, café, community services, staff office and flexible co working space to support regeneration of the city centre. In addition, permission has been granted for a unique indoor bouldering/climbing facility at Parc Tawe which will contribute to objectives within SD J to enhance the Retail Park and to attract visitors and investment into the Swansea Central Area.



**SD K** – Whilst no applications were permitted during 2021-2022 within SD K a Reserved Matters application is being considered (ref 2022/0954/RES) on Plots Pc And Pj SA1 for the development of the UWTSD Innovation Matrix Building (mixed Business B1 / Education D1 with ancillary A3) seeking approval of the details for a new education (use class D1) and business (use class B1) building to be constructed to the west of the UWTSD's Faculty of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (FACE) & Technology Building (now known as the IQ Building) and north of the Library (Y Fforwm) facing Kings Road.

**SD L** – As reported in AMR 2 during 2020-21 Listed Building consent was granted for the stabilisation of the Laboratory building (a Grade II Listed Building) on the site, insertion of new floors, staircase and new roof structure as part of placemaking principles for this site to include a mixed use heritage led project including restoration and reuse of historic buildings. It is expected that once renovated the Laboratory can potentially occupy an A3 type restaurant/cafe. During 2021/2022 consent was granted for the change of use of the building to mixed use Classes A1, A2 A3 and new car parking to provide a heritage led regeneration project. This will support the heritage led regeneration of this site in accordance with SD L.

Overall, it is considered that the target is being met and the consents are in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2021-22.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>PS 2, SD policies, IO 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>3. Local Indicator: SDAs to be delivered in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in the site policy and masterplan</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Sites allocated in the Plan	One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan without sufficient justification.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Ensuring that developments fully incorporate placemaking principles is considered fundamental to the delivery of sustainable places. The LPA has continued working closely with all the site promoters of the SDAs and the proposals coming forward are the product of extensive engagement over a number of years at the pre-application stage. This is exemplified with the collaborative placemaking approach between the Council and the developer behind SD B Garden Village. Specifically, regarding the planning applications consented in 2021-2022, the LPA has engaged extensively with the developers concerned to ensure the agreed schemes will deliver sustainable places in-line with the Plan's placemaking requirements. As stated under Indicator 2, planning consents were granted in 2021-22 on SD B, SD C, SD I, SD J and SD L, and it is considered that the consents are in-line with the site masterplans and policies and so the target is being met.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

3.12 Appendix 3 of the LDP sets out key site requirements and informatives for all the sites allocated in the Plan. The appendix provides additional detail to the requirements set out in the policies and sets out clearly where the Council will require infrastructure to be provided to support development. Indicator 4 monitors planning applications consented on allocated sites in 2021-22 against the LDP Appendix 3 requirements.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>PS 2, IO 1, H 1, H 5, SD policies</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>4. Key Indicator: Number of planning applications permitted which deliver infrastructure measures identified in Appendix 3 of the Plan.</b>	Development addresses the impact on communities through the provision of new or improved infrastructure measures as identified in Appendix 3 of the Plan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Sites allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	10 allocated sites granted planning permission in 2019-20.  All planning applications permitted in-line with Appendix 3.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	3 allocated sites granted planning permission in 2020-21.  All planning applications permitted in-line with Appendix 3.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	5 allocated sites granted planning permission in 2021-2022	
			One planning application permitted which does not deliver the Infrastructure identified in Appendix 3.	

**Analysis:**

Planning permission was granted on the following SDAs in 2021-22. A commentary is provided below for each site in relation to the requirements set out in the LDP. This summary does not include sites where only Discharge of Condition applications were dealt with during the monitoring period:

**SD B** – In July 2021 the Council approved detailed RM applications for details of access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping for 705 dwellings, POS, hierarchy of street networks, provision of local centre, habitat retention (2019/2905/RES) and for details of landscaping for the whole site (2019/2906/RES). As already reported under indicator 2 through the S106 secured as part of the Outline consent and the detailed proposals within the Reserved Matters applications the development will deliver the necessary new or improved infrastructure measures in relation to Education, Green Infrastructure Network, Open Space, Biodiversity Measures and Environmental Enhancements, Social Infrastructure and Transport.

**SD I** – No planning application yet submitted for the comprehensive residential led mixed use development at Swansea Vale. However as reported under Indicator 2 full planning permission was granted in August 2021 for a car sales dealership and associated works at the Land West of Heron Drive, Swansea Vale, Swansea (2021/2116/FUL). This was only one parcel of land within the SD I and there were no specific infrastructure requirements set out in Appendix 3 that this proposal would need to deliver.

**SD J** - As reported in Indicator 2 a number of significant regeneration developments have been permitted and some implemented within the Swansea Central Area as reported in previous AMR's. The transformational Copr Bay Arena was completed during 2021-2022. In addition a number of significant applications were determined. The schemes as set out in indicator 56 include the provision of significant new employment B1 floorspace within Oxford Street, Princess Way, a new Community Hub for the Council providing library, archives, café, community services, staff office and flexible co working space to support regeneration of the city centre, and the redevelopment of Albert Hall to a performance venue, cafe Bar and Food Court, Flexible Office workspace (B1a), Lifestyle Units (B1a and D1 and 10 no. Serviced Apartments (C1). In addition, permission has been granted for a unique indoor bouldering/climbing facility at Parc Tawe which will contribute to objectives within SD J to enhance the Retail Park and to attract visitors and investment into the Swansea Central Area. These individual schemes help to deliver the overall objectives for the regeneration of the Central Area.

**SD L** – As reported in Indicator 2 during 2021/2022 change of use was granted for the former laboratory building to mixed use Classes A1, A2 A3 and new car parking to provide a heritage led regeneration project. This will support the heritage led regeneration of this site in accordance with SD L. This was only one parcel of land within the SD I and there were no specific infrastructure requirements set out in Appendix 3 that this proposal would need to deliver.

In terms of non-strategic sites, the following planning consent was granted in 2021-22, and a commentary is provided below for this site:

**H1.32 Land south of Glebe Road** - Full planning permission (2021/0112/FUL) was granted (2021/0112/FUL) in September 2021 for the construction of 23 dwellings, landscaping, drainage and associated works. The planning approval including the S106 Agreement for the application secures the required 15% affordable housing requirement in the form of 3 affordable homes and an off site Affordable Housing payment of £44,814, provision of an enhanced on site Local Area Play, highways contribution of £18,000 towards local improvements to the southern footway on Glebe Road, provision of Green Infrastructure and the maintenance and management plans for retained trees, new trees, hedgerows, LAP's, open spaces and SUDS. The Education Department have confirmed that there is existing capacity in the existing schools to accommodate the potential children numbers generated by this application for 23 houses so no education contribution is required. As such, no education contribution is required for this application. The proposal delivers necessary infrastructure as set out in Appendix 3 in relating to the Green Infrastructure Network, Open Space (through provision of enhanced LAP), biodiversity enhancements and Transport Infrastructure (through Active Travel improvements to the AT6 Loughor Link) as secured through the S106.

Overall, it is considered that the target is being met and the consents meet the required infrastructure provision.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### Policy PS 3: Sustainable Housing Strategy

3.13 Policy PS 3 sets out how the Plan will meet the identified housing requirement over the Plan period. A number of indicators monitor this aspect of the Plan.

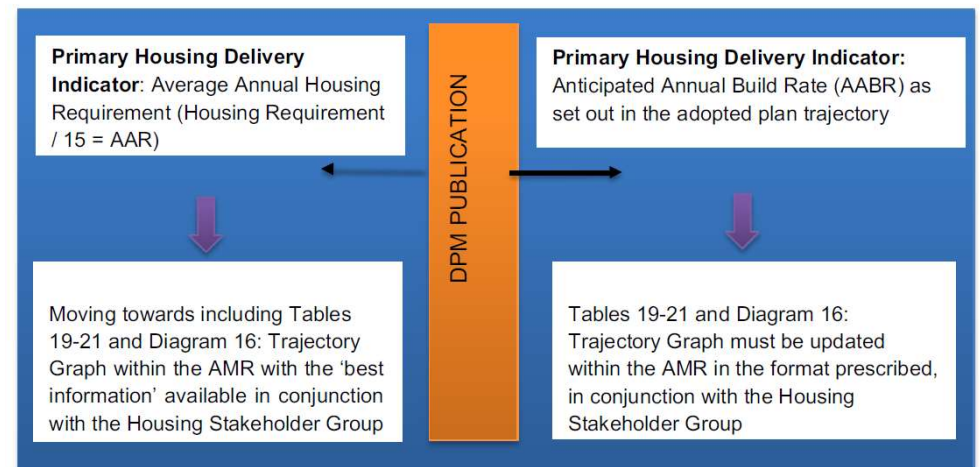
#### Monitoring Housing Delivery

3.14 The revised Development Plan Manual (DPM edition 3 2020) published by WG has set out an amended monitoring process for tracking housing delivery. This new approach to monitoring reflects amendments that have been made to national planning policy. As a result of this, Core Indicator 5 in the Swansea LDP (the indicator that was intended to monitor the 5 year housing land supply in accordance with the now revoked TAN 1) is no longer needed. Instead, LDP Indicator 5 has been replaced by two new key indicators (5a and 5b) as per the requirements set out in the latest DPM.

3.15 The DPM is clear (para 8.14) that “for the avoidance of doubt, those Local Planning Authorities who adopted their LDP prior to the publication of the DPM (Edition 3) in March 2020 should use the Average Annual Housing Requirement (AAR) method as the primary indicator to measure housing delivery, and include the trajectory approach within Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs) going forward”. A

trajectory must be included where delivery is compared against the straight AAR line (para 8.15). In the case of Swansea, this approach necessitates that the total requirement for housing in the LDP (15,600 units) be divided by the 15 year period of the Plan. The DPM summarises this approach by means of a useful illustration, which is replicated in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: Extract from the DPM on the Monitoring Method to be Followed for Housing Delivery**



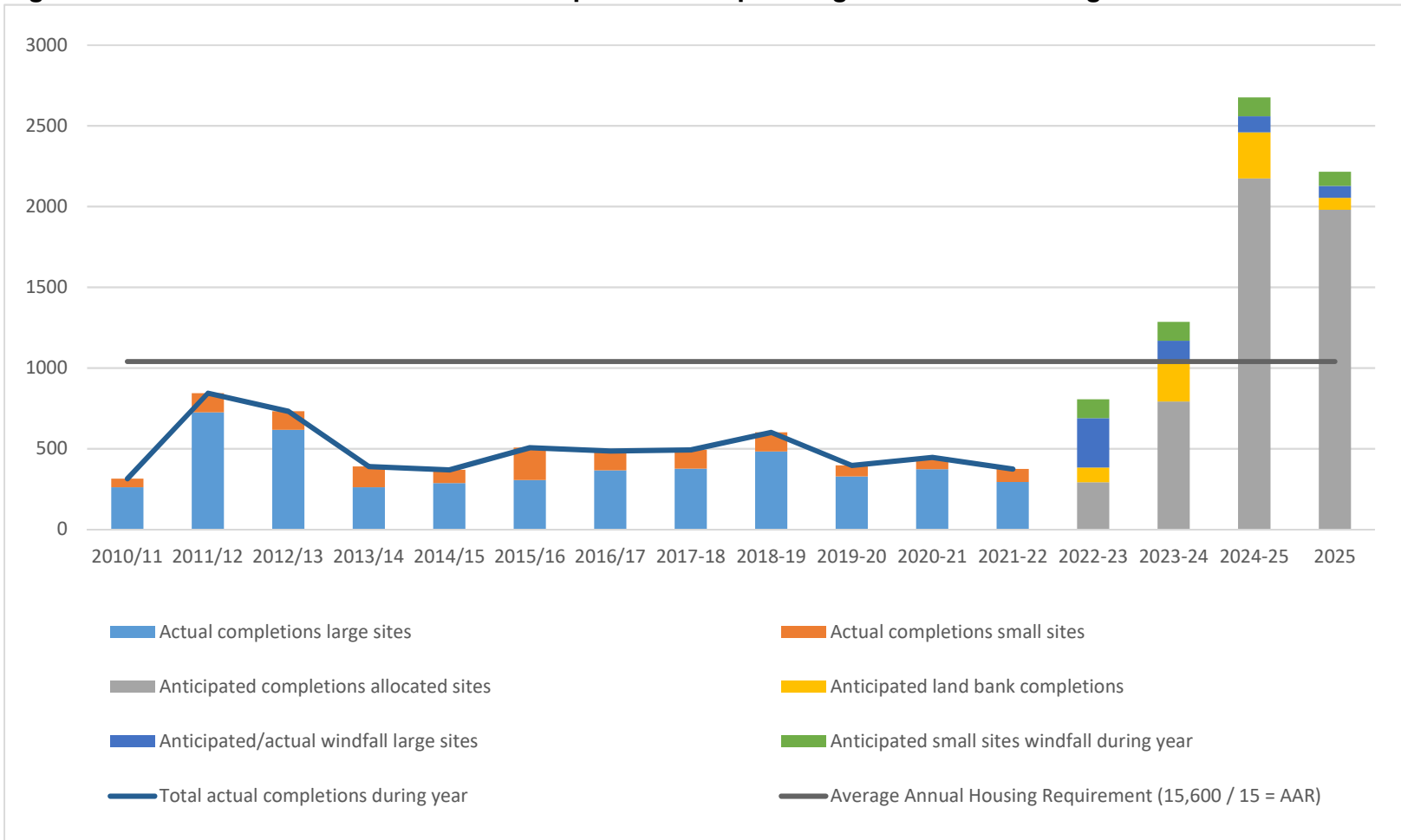
3.16 The DPM requires Local Planning Authorities to chart and tabulate actual completions against the ‘straight AAR line’, and forecast the timing and phasing of sites/supply in the remaining years of the plan period.

- 3.17 In accordance with these requirements, the Council has prepared an update to the records for the delivery of all housing sites with the benefit of planning consent, and/or that are allocated in the LDP, in terms of the number of units completed in 2021-22, as well as the forecasts for future completions. In-line with the DPM, the Council has tracked forward the progress made on sites since the forecasts that were agreed at the Swansea LDP Examination and formalised in the adopted Plan. This updated schedule builds in time lags (to apply as of April 1st 2022) for i) pre-application / PAC, ii) the time between submission of the planning application until determination, and iii) the time taken from planning consent to the discharge of conditions to enable construction to start. In-line with the DPM, the Council has also applied time lags to the non strategic allocations. This approach is based on the same source evidence as was agreed during the Examination in Public on the Swansea LDP as being a sound basis for delivery trajectories on the allocated SDAs (Chamberlain and Walker: The Role of Land Pipelines in the UK Housebuilding Process). Evidence gathering and discussions with developers on the progress of sites have been used to update the forecasts and are set out in the site schedules at Appendix 1, which follow the structure required in the template Tables 19 and 20 of the DPM. Indicators 5a and 5b are based on these schedules.
- 3.18 In-line with the DPM, in addition to the close and regular dialogue that the LPA has had with developers and RSLs on sites being promoted and engaging with developers during regular Council facilitated Developer Forum meetings, the LPA also undertook direct consultation with the development sector through the Home Builders Federation (HBF) Wales. This consultation was undertaken in July 2022. Having regard to this engagement process, the draft housing trajectory outputs were largely supported with only a small number of site specific queries raised as follows:
- It was suggested that a lot of sites were forecasted to come forward in 2023-24 and that this could result in a slightly lower build rate.
  - It was suggested that the build forecasts for SD 1.D Land West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderry in 2024-25 was too high.
  - It was suggested regarding SD 1.J Central Area and Waterfront that while it was accepted that there would likely be multiple sites in this area coming forward, the forecast in 2024-25 was too high if all selling a similar product.
- 3.19 Following the above stakeholder engagement, the Council has reviewed the anticipated trajectory for the sites queried and has made some appropriate adjustments in order to reflect the concerns raised by the industry. The indicators monitoring housing delivery are set out below.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 1-H 6, H 9</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>5a. Key Indicator: Completions measured against the AAR set out in the plan presented in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %).</b>	AAR - 1,040 homes per annum (15,600/15 years 2010-25).	<b>Adoption:</b>	AAR of 1,040 identified
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Completions in 2019-20 = 397 (38% of the AAR).
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Completions in 2020-21 = 446 (43% of the AAR).
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Completions in 2021-22 = 374 (40% of the AAR).
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Using the updated site trajectories set out in Appendix 1, the Council has prepared a table and chart illustrating completions and forecasts against the AAR straight line. The chart and table below are based on the required templates in the guidance (DPM Table 21 and Diagram 16b).			



**Figure 2: Actual and Forecasted Annual Completions compared against the AAR straight line**



**Table 4: Actual and Forecasted Annual Housing Completions compared against the AAR**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	LDP Adopted	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
Actual completions, large sites (before LDP adoption)	260	724	617	260	286	305	366	375	482								
Actual completions, small sites (before LDP adoption)	54	120	114	129	82	201	120	117	119								
Actual/Anticipated completions allocated sites during year (after LDP adoption)											179	241	178	292	792	2,173	1979
Actual/Anticipated land bank completions during year (after LDP adoption)											148	131	40	90	243	286	74
Anticipated windfall during year (after LDP adoption)											0*	0*	76	307	133	100	74
Actual/Anticipated small windfall during year (after LDP adoption)											70	74	80	117	117	117	88
<b>Total actual completions during year</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>731</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>486</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>LDP Adopted</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>2,676</b>	<b>2215</b>
<b>AAR (15,600 / 15)</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>LDP Adopted</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>	<b>1,040</b>

\*Large windfall sites have been excluded in the first 2 years of supply after LDP adoption as per the DPM.

The graph shows the completions for the years following LDP adoption (in-line with Regulation 41). It shows that completions have again been below the straight AAR line in 2021-22 as was the case in 2019-20 and 2020-21 following adoption of the LDP in February 2019. Therefore, the overall number of additional dwellings built within the County has now fallen below the AAR requirement of 1,040 homes per annum for 3 consecutive years following adoption of the LDP. Significant timelags have been encountered from the forecasted trajectory in the LDP to deliver the identified housing requirement. This is not an issue confined to Swansea and has been seen in the other main urban areas of South Wales. For example, Cardiff's AMR for 2021-22 shows completions have been below the AAR each year since 2009-10 and in total are 13,490 under the required provision for the Plan period so far. Time lags in provision have also been reported in Newport, NPT and Bridgend AMRs.

There have been highly exceptional circumstances that have influenced the above outcome over the last 2-3 years. In particular, at times within this period dwelling completions have been impacted by the COVID 19 crisis impacting on site operations (closure of sites and social distancing), while labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems are also impacting the housebuilding industry<sup>7</sup>. Further factors which have affected housebuilding are the impact of sustainable drainage requirements and increased ecology requirements which have all had to be incorporated into the masterplanning process on sites and impacted on viability and in some cases delayed deliverability.

As reported in AMR 2, the Swansea LDP SDAs have taken longer than originally anticipated to progress to a stage that will enable delivery of homes on site. Significant progress has though been made. The LPA has continued to engage closely with the relevant site promoters and developers since the LDP was prepared and adopted, and several SDAs have been brought forward to detailed planning application stages. This close working has ensured that the sites have progressed in-line with the detailed placemaking principles and sustainability requirements that are clearly set out in the Development Plan and national policy, and that infrastructure and other measures are secured through complex Section 106 agreements. Overall, the close engagement with site promoters and work to progress applications has resulted in some significant progress in 2021-22 with the Reserved Matters (RM) planning application for SD B, Land north of Garden Village, approved in 2021-22; following approval for SD C Land south of A240 Penllergaer, in the previous year. Beyond the remit of AMR 3, subsequently in 2022-23, RM consent has now been granted for the first phases of SD D Land west of Llangyfelach and development has now commenced on the first residential led Strategic Development Area in the Swansea LDP (SDA C, Land at Parc Mawr, Penllergaer), during 2022-23, which will also be reported in the AMR 4. In this context it is noteworthy that the latest Cardiff AMR highlights that once their SDA sites started to deliver new homes, notwithstanding that completions are under the AAR, this drove a significant step change in the number of total housing completions in the County.

The LPA is continuing to work with the relevant developers and applicants to facilitate the necessary discharge of conditions applications, in order to enable work on the sites with consent to commence swiftly and to bring forward planning applications on SD sites A, Land South of Glanffrwyd Road, Pontarddulais; SD E Land North of Clasemont Road, Morriston; SD F Land at Cefn Coed Hospital, Tycoch; and SD H Land North of Waunarlwydd / Fforestfach.

In addition to the progress made on SD sites, progress has been made on non-strategic allocations. The Council determined planning applications for residential development on H1.32 Land South of Glebe Road, Loughor; H1.21 Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery Gowerton;

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<sup>7</sup> Survey of Small and Medium Enterprise housebuilders in the UK (HBF January 2022 press release)

and H1.5 Land At Upper Bank Pentrechwyth Nantong Way Pentrechwyth in 2021-22; and a number of Discharge of Condition Applications relating to existing allocated housing sites already permitted on H1.30 Land at Tyrisha Farm, Grovesend; H1.31 Land West Of Gower View Road And North Of Brynafon Road Penyrheol; H1.32 Land South of Glebe Road, Loughor; H1.3 Townhill Campus Townhill Road Cockett and H5.04 Land adj Pennard Drive.

Delivery was achieved at a number of allocated sites including Upper Bank, Pentrechwyth; Land South of Glebe Road, Loughor; Land adj Pennard Drive, Pennard, Land at Tyrisha Farm, Grovesend; Land at Summerland Lane, Newton; and SD J Central Area and Waterfront. Delivery was also achieved on non allocated sites Land Off Rhydypany Road & Mynydd Gelli Wastad Road, Morriston; and Land at former Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry, Morriston. It is also significant that further affordable housing has been delivered by the Council's More Homes programme at Colliers Way Penderry and continues to be developed in Clase, with pre planning work ongoing on a number of further sites in the pipeline.

A number of windfall sites have come forward and delivered housing in the period since the Plan was adopted, while a further number of large windfall sites that have detailed planning consent, totalling in excess of the forecasts in the LDP for annual windfall delivery, are expected to be built in the next 3 years. This suggests that the windfall assumptions adopted in the LDP for large windfall sites were a conservative underestimate and that it can be expected that further windfall sites will come forward in the later years of the Plan period, above and beyond the annual rate assumed in the LDP, which will benefit supply in future years of the Plan.

Nonetheless, despite the progress summarised above, significant timelags have been encountered from the forecasted trajectory in the LDP to deliver the identified housing requirement and no development has yet been recorded in the first 3 AMR years of the plan on the residential led SDA sites. On the basis of the latest site forecasts, which have been formulated through engagement with developers and site promoters, the updated forecasted supply bar for 2022-23 shown in Figure 2, shows that housing supply is expected to again fall below the AAR rate in the next 12 months on the basis of the sites with planning consent (as forecasted in Appendix 1). It is not expected to exceed the AAR until the subsequent years of the Plan period when the SDA allocations are expected to comprehensively get underway to deliver significant numbers of new homes, with more than one outlet on these large sites, while other sites identified in the updated trajectory will have progressed through the development pipeline to begin delivery of new homes.

As a consequence of lower than anticipated housing delivery over the initial years of the Plan, to meet the LDP housing target of 15,600 new dwellings, an annual build rate of 2,570 new homes will now be needed from 2022 to 2025. This level of delivery is unprecedented

and would require numerous sites to come forward at the same time. It is therefore considered unlikely that the LDP housing requirement will be delivered in full during the LDP period.

Overall, similarly to other urban areas of South Wales, development of some plan allocations has not progressed as quickly as originally forecasted due to a number of factors and despite the efforts of the Council. While many of the sites included in the LDP are considered to be sound and are progressing, the indicators suggest that the Plan is not being implemented. The statutory 4 year Plan Review that is now required will provide the opportunity to address these issues. The review will need to reflect the significant work that has been undertaken by both applicant and LPA to progress a number of the sites to an advanced stage of the planning process, such that they are well placed to soon deliver homes on site and create excellent examples of new sustainable places, and may well become commitments in the time period before a Replacement LDP is adopted. The Review will nonetheless provide the opportunity to review the deliverability and viability of existing allocations; while at the same time also consider what other appropriate and sustainable sites could contribute to the housing supply where necessary. Any review will also need to take into account the change in evidence of housing requirements since the LDP was adopted.

**Action:**

**Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 1-H 6, H 9</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>5b. Key Indicator: cumulative completions measured against the cumulative average annual housing requirement set out in the Plan presented both in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %).</b>	Cumulative AAR as shown in table 5.	<b>Adoption:</b>	AAR of 1,040 identified
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Cumulative completions by 2019-20 total 5,132 (49% of the cumulative AAR)
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Cumulative completions by 2020-21 total 5,578 (49% of the cumulative AAR)
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Cumulative completions by 2021-22 total 5,952 (48% of the cumulative AAR)
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>The table below shows completions have been below the AAR level in 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22, the first three years following adoption of the LDP. Therefore the overall number of additional dwellings built within the County has fallen below the requirement for 3 consecutive years following adoption of the Plan. It is also important to note that cumulative completions are partly below the cumulative AAR rate as a result of completions having been below the required rate in the early years of the Plan period before the LDP and its new housing supply was adopted.</p> <p>A detailed response to the shortfall in provision is provided under indicator 5a above.</p>			

**Table 5: Cumulative Annual Completions compared against the Cumulative AAR rate**

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	LDP Adopted	2019-20**	2020-21	2021-22
Total actual completions during year	314	844	731	389	368	506	486	492	605		397	446	374
Cumulative completions	314	1,158	1,889	2,278	2,646	3,152	3,638	4,130	4,735		5,132	5,578	5,952
Cumulative Average Annual Housing Requirement (15,600 / 15 = AAR)	1,040	2,080	3,120	4,160	5,200	6,240	7,280	8,320	9,360		10,400	11,440	12,480

**Action:**

**Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

**Net Additional Dwellings**

3.20 Indicator 6 is required in all LDPs. It monitors progress in meeting the 15,600 new homes identified as the housing requirement for Swansea over the LDP period 2010-25. Following indicator 6, further indicators are also provided below which monitor different types of housing sites in the supply.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 1-H 6, H 9</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>6. Required Indicator: Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the County (through the planning system) minus demolitions.</b>	To deliver 15,600 dwellings in total during the Plan period. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:		<b>Adoption:</b> Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan  <b>AMR No. 1:</b> 2019-20: 397 new dwellings built in the first year following adoption of the LDP.  <b>AMR No. 2:</b> 2020-21: 446 new dwellings built in the second year following adoption of the LDP.  <b>AMR No. 3:</b> 2021-2022: 374 new dwellings built in the third year following adoption of the LDP.
	2018/19	816	
	<b>LDP adopted</b>		
	2019/20	1,360	
	2020/21	1,654	
	2021/22	1,760	
	2022/23	1,959	
	2023/24	1,436	
	2024/25	1,569	
2025	961		
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>374 new dwellings were completed (net*) in 2021-22 comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 294 completions recorded on large sites (of 10+ dwellings).</li> <li>• 80 completions recorded on small sites (&lt;10 dwellings).</li> </ul> <p>Overall housing completions are below the requirement in 2021-22, for the third consecutive year since the LDP has been in operation. A detailed response to the shortfall in provision is provided under indicator 5a above.</p> <p><i>*Completed replacement dwellings have been excluded since a home was demolished to make way for the new dwelling.</i></p>			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>			



### Additional Dwellings by Strategic Housing Policy Zone (SHPZ)

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>								
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 3</b>			<b>Related policies:</b>				<b>H 1-H 6, H 9</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>							<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>6b Key Indicator: Number of net additional dwellings built in the County by SHPZ.</b>	To deliver 15,600 dwellings in total during the Plan period, broken down by SHPZ as follows. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:							<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
		<b>C</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>GNW</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>GF</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>AMR No. 1:</b> 2019-20 New dwellings by SHPZ (net*):
	2018/19	182	199	149	0	0	69	125	
	<b>LDP adopted</b>								
	2019/20	187	190	560	0	25	209	179	<b>AMR No. 2:</b> 2020-21 New dwellings by SHPZ (net*):
	2020/21	153	240	703	25	30	430	107	
	2021/22	130	412	629	0	40	484	115	<b>AMR No. 3:</b> 2021-22 New dwellings by SHPZ (net*):
	2022/23	533	290	500	0	0	600	117	
	2023/24	122	195	550	0	0	491	80	
	2024/25	245	240	555	0	0	441	110	
2025	203	105	318	0	0	248	71		
<b>Analysis:</b>									
Housing completions are below the requirement in 2021-22, for the third consecutive year in which the LDP has been in operation. Please see the Council's commentary on housing delivery and the actions being taken to bring forward housing sites, which is set out under Indicator 5a above.									
<i>*Completed replacement dwellings have been excluded since a home was demolished to make way for the new dwelling.</i>									
<b>Action:</b>									

Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required

**Additional Dwellings on Allocated Sites**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17			
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 3		<b>Related policies:</b>	SD 1, H 1, H 5
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>		<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>7 Key Indicator: Core Indicator: Total housing units built on allocated sites as a % of overall housing provision</b>	To deliver 9,930 dwellings in total during the Plan period on allocated sites. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:		<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
	2018/19	240	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	2019-20**: 179 new dwellings built on allocated sites
	<b>LDP adopted</b>			
	2019/20	884	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2020-21: 241 new dwellings built on allocated sites
	2020/21	1,469		
	2021/22	1,658		
	2022/23	1,923	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	2021-22: 178 new dwellings built on allocated sites
	2023/24	1,333		
	2024/25	1,519		
2025	885			
<b>Analysis:</b>				
178 new homes were delivered on allocated sites in 2021-22. This amounted to 48% of the 374 housing units delivered in the year.				
Housing completions are below the requirement for 2021-22 and also for the third consecutive year in which the LDP has been in operation. Please see the Council's commentary on housing delivery and the actions being taken to bring forward housing sites, which is set out under Indicator 5a above. A review is needed of the policies allocating housing sites in the LDP.				

<b>Action:</b>
Relevant policies to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required

### Additional Dwellings on Strategic Development Areas (SDAs)

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17					
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 3	<b>Related policies:</b>				
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>				
<b>7a Key Indicator: Total housing units built on allocated sites as a % of overall housing provision</b>	To deliver 7,109 dwellings on SDAs in total during the Plan period. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>Adoption:</b> Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan  <b>AMR No. 1:</b> 2019-20: 19* new dwellings built on SDAs.  <b>AMR No. 2:</b> 2020-21: 112 new dwellings built on SDAs.  <b>AMR No. 3:</b> 2021-22: 19 new dwellings built on SDAs.				
	<b>Trigger point:</b>			The overall number of additional dwellings built on SDAs falls below the requirement for 2 consecutive years		
	2018/19					100
	<b>LDP adopted</b>					
	2019/20					349
	2020/21					891
	2021/22					1,124
	2022/23					1,388
	2023/24					1,103
2024/25	1,269					
2025	885					
<b>Analysis:</b>						
19 new homes were delivered on allocated SDA sites in 2021-22. This amounted to 5% of the 374 housing units delivered in the year. The 19 were completed in SD J. Housing completions are below the requirement for the third consecutive year in which the LDP has been						

in operation. Please see the Council’s commentary on housing delivery and the actions being taken to bring forward housing sites, which is set out under Indicator 5a above. A review is needed of the SD policies in the LDP.

**Action:**

**Relevant policies to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

### Additional Dwellings on Non-Strategic Allocations under Policy H 1

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 3	<b>Related policies:</b>	H 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>7b Key Indicator: Total housing units built on allocated sites as a % of overall housing provision</b>	To deliver 2,611 dwellings on H 1 allocations in total during the Plan period. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
	2018/19   100	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	2019-20: 162 new dwellings built on H 1 sites
	<b>LDP adopted</b>		
	2019/20   460	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2020-21: 106 new dwellings built on H 1 sites
	2020/21   523		
	2021/22   494		
	2022/23   535	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	2021-22: 110 new dwellings built on H 1 sites
	2023/24   230		
2024/25   250			
2025   0			
<b>Analysis:</b>			

110 new homes were delivered on allocated H 1 sites in 2021-22, 29% of all housing delivery in this year.

Housing completions on H 1 allocated sites are below the requirement for 3 consecutive years following adoption of the LDP. Please see the Council's commentary on housing delivery set out under Indicator 5a. A review is needed of the H1 policy.

**Action:**

**Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

## Additional Dwellings on Policy H 5 Allocations

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 3	<b>Related policies:</b>	H 5
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>7c Key Indicator: Total housing units built on allocated sites as a % of overall housing provision</b>	To deliver 210 dwellings on H 5 allocations in total during the Plan period. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
	2018/19   40	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	2019-20: 17 new dwellings completed on H 5 sites
	LDP adopted		
	2019/20   75	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2020-21: 39 new dwellings completed on H 5 sites
	2020/21   55		
	2021/22   40	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	2021-22: 49 new dwellings completed on H 5 sites
	2022/23   0		
	2023/24   0		
2024/25   0			
2025   0			
<b>Analysis:</b>			
49 new homes were delivered on allocated H 5 sites in 2020-21, 13% of all housing delivery in this year.			
Housing completions are below the requirement in 2021-22, for 3 consecutive years following adoption of the LDP and its new housing land supply. Please see the Council's commentary on housing delivery set out under Indicator 5a. A review is needed of the H 5 policy.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>			

## Additional Dwellings on Windfall Sites

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 3	<b>Related policies:</b>	PS 1, PS 2, H 3-6, 9
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>7d Key Indicator: Total housing units built on windfall sites as a % of overall housing provision</b>	To deliver 1,882 dwellings on windfall sites in total during the Plan period. Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
	2018/19	215	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>
	LDP adopted		
	2019/20	215	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>
	2020/21	215	
	2021/22	215	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>
	2022/23	215	
	2023/24	215	
2024/25	215		
2025	162		
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>156 new homes were delivered on windfall sites in 2021-22, representing 42% of all housing delivery in this year.</p> <p>An estimate for windfall development was included in the Plan for approximately 215 units per annum on large and small sites. Housing completions on windfall sites are below the estimated forecast in 2021-22, for the third consecutive year in which the LDP has been in operation. However, a low number of windfall completions on large (10+ unit) sites at this early stage of the Plan being in operation is to be expected and, as noted under indicator 5a above, a further number of large windfall sites which have detailed planning consent, totalling in excess of the forecasts in the LDP for annual windfall delivery, are expected to be built in the next 3 years. The emerging</p>			

evidence suggests that the windfall assumptions adopted in the LDP were a conservative underestimate with regard to large (10+ unit sites) sites and that it can be expected that further sites will come forward in the later years of the Plan period, above and beyond the annual rate assumed in the LDP, which will benefit supply in future years of the Plan. Therefore, the delivery from windfall sites is not considered to be a concern at this stage. Nonetheless, other indicators have highlighted that a Plan review is required and an important element of the future Replacement LDP evidence base will be an analysis of the supply that windfall sites can be expected to contribute to fulfilling the housing requirement.

**Action:**

**Further research required of windfall rates to inform future forecasts**

### Additional Dwellings in Key Villages

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 1-H 6, H 9</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>8. Key Indicator: Number of net additional dwellings built in the County in Key Villages</b>	Build 358 dwellings in Key Villages in total by 2025. (78 built to 1st April 2017). Cumulative completion targets for remainder of Plan period	<b>Adoption:</b>	Housing requirement and site delivery set out in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	2019-20: 1 new dwelling in Key Villages
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2020-21: 2 new dwellings in Key Villages



	2025	280			
				<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	2021-22: 82 new dwellings in Key Villages
<b>Analysis:</b>					
82 new dwellings recorded as built in Key Villages in 2021-22. Housing completions are below the forecast for the third consecutive year in which the LDP has been in operation. Please see the Council's commentary on housing delivery set out under Indicator 5a.					
<b>Action:</b>					
<b>Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>					

### Gypsy and Traveller Sites

- 3.21 The LDP identified accommodation needs for Gypsies and Travellers based on evidence from the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) and set out how this need would be accommodated over the Plan period. Indicator 9, below, monitors the provision of new pitches to meet identified needs within the required timescales set out in the LDP.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 7</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>9. Key Indicator: Provision is made to meet the Gypsy &amp; Traveller needs identified within the GTAA over the periods:</b> <b>2016-21 – 7 residential pitches at Pant y Blawd Road (planning permission reference 2018/0830).</b> <b>2021-25 – 6 residential pitches (or the re-assessed need for pitches identified in the new GTAA expected to be published in 2020).</b>	Provision is made to meet the Gypsy & Traveller needs identified within the GTAA over the periods	<b>Adoption:</b>	Identified need for 7 new pitches 2016-21 to be met by development at land west of Pant y Blawd Road.  Development of 2018/0830 at Pant y Blawd Road not completed by 2021.  No start on site in year 2023/24 for delivery of 6 pitches to meet residual need (or sufficient pitches to address the re-assessed need).	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>		Development of new pitches did not commence in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>		Development of new pitches did not commence in 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>		Development of new pitches did not commence in 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Development of new pitches on the land west of Pant y Blawd Road, which it is identified in the LDP will accommodate the 7 pitches needed in the period up to the end of 2021, had not yet commenced as of April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022, the base date of this AMR. Therefore the trigger point regarding the aim for the development to be completed by the end of 2021 has not been fulfilled and delivery of the pitches to meet the identified immediate need has not been made. Furthermore, the planning consent has expired. Therefore, the land considered to be in place to accommodate the immediate need for the LDP period no longer has a lawful planning use for the purpose and a review is therefore required of the latest Gypsy and Traveller need and available land that can accommodate it.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>				

3.22 The new WG DPM also notes that a separate LDP indicator is now required to monitor and make provision for any newly arising need identified outside of the GTAA on which the LDP is based. No specific indicator for newly arising need outside of the GTAA

was published in the LDP due to the Plan being adopted before this new WG guidance. Therefore indicator 9a has been added to the monitoring framework below.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1,9,14,17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy PS 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 7</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>9a Key Indicator: Newly arising need for pitches in addition to that identified in the GTAA evidence on which the LDP is based</b>		<b>Adoption:</b>	A forecast for newly arising need over the Plan period was included in the GTAA on which the LDP was based
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No further newly arising need recorded in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No further newly arising need recorded in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No further newly arising need recorded in 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>			
It should be noted that the current published GTAA (2015), which forms the LDP evidence base for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation needs, included a forecast for newly arising need over the Plan period. No new GTAA is published as of the base date of this AMR, 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022. However, as noted above under indicator 9, further investigation is needed with regard to the up to date need for pitches to inform the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>Further research/investigation required</b>			

### Houses in Multiple Occupation

3.23 The Plan seeks to ensure that future HMO provision is managed sustainably in the interests of fostering cohesive communities, including avoiding instances of over-concentration of HMOs to the detriment of residential amenity and community balance. Policy H 9 identifies two tiers of specific thresholds, above which further concentrations of HMOs will normally be

deemed a harmful concentration. One of these thresholds (25%) applies to a HMO Management Area which is defined on the LDP Proposals Map, and covers parts of Uplands and Castle Wards. Indicator 10, below, monitors the background level of HMOs as a proportion of all residential properties in the HMO Management Area.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1,9,14,17		
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy PS 3	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>H 9</b>
<b>10 Local Indicator: The proportion of HMOs within Castle and Uplands Wards, having regard to the overall numbers of registered HMO properties as a proportion of the residential properties.</b>	To ensure the number of HMOs as a proportion of the total number of residential properties within the HMO Management Area does not significantly exceed the 25% threshold.	<b>Adoption:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b> Average concentration of HMO's within the LSOAs of the HMO Management Area either reduces or increases by +/- 2% from the base level, which is currently around 25%.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Overall, within the HMO Management Area, HMOs were identified as comprising 24.1 % of all residential properties. The percentage still remains within the +/-2% range identified in the monitoring indicator trigger point. The indicator target, to ensure the number of HMOs as a proportion of the total number of residential properties within the HMO Management Area does not significantly exceed the 25% threshold, has again been achieved in 2021-22.			
<b>Action:</b>			
No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.			

## ***Policy PS 4: Sustainable Employment Strategy***

3.24 This section provides an analysis of the monitoring indicators for the plan's Strategic Employment Strategy, which is set out in Policy PS 4. The WG guidance<sup>8</sup> requires LPAs to monitor employment land take-up against allocations, and class B job growth in line with the Plan strategy. These requirements are fulfilled by the indicators in this section.

### **Contextual Indicators**

3.25 The beginning of this section analyses several locally defined indicators which provide a useful understanding of the economic context in which the Plan has operated in Swansea. It should be noted that the datasets for these statistics often have a time lag before release, and the latest available data has been reported for each indicator.

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<sup>8</sup> Edition 3 of the Development Plans Manual (DPM), March 2020.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>		Policies RC 1-13
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>14. Contextual Indicator: Average full-time weekly earnings</b>	An increase in average wage levels.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Average earnings for Swansea were £563.90 per week (April 2019)	A decrease is recorded for 2 consecutive years.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Latest data on annual change shows earnings estimates increased by 5.5% over the most recent period of available data (2018-19).	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Latest data on annual change shows earnings estimates decreased by 4.6% over the most recent period of available data (2019-20).	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Latest data on annual change shows earnings estimates increased by 2.1% over the most recent period of available data (2020-21)	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>The latest available estimate on earnings is for April 2021. Full time employee gross median weekly earnings estimates saw an annual increase of 2.1% between April 2020 to 2021 having decreased by 4.6% in the previous 12 months. However, this increase is lower than the change over the year in Wales (4.2% increase) and the UK (4.3% increase).</p> <p>The median weekly gross earnings estimate figure for Swansea in April 2021 was £552.60, which was below the Wales average of £570.60. This means average earnings for Swansea residents is 3.2% lower than the Wales figure and 9.5% below the UK average.</p>				

It is also interesting to note that the above figure is based on Swansea residents (i.e. the average earnings of adults living within the area). The equivalent figures for Swansea workplace earnings estimates increased by 2.9% between 2021-22; although average Swansea workplace earnings are around £3 per week lower than resident-based figure.

*Data source: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) 2021.*

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16		
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Policies RC 1-13</b>
<b>15. Contextual Indicator: Worklessness rate (working age).</b>	A reduction in the worklessness rate.	<b>Adoption:</b>	51,900 people of working age (Jan-Dec 2018)
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	46,900 people of working age (Jan-Dec 2019) Annual reduction of -9.6% people of working age
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	43,900 people of working age (Jan-Dec 2020) Annual reduction of -6.4% people of working age
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	44,000 people of working age (Jan-Dec 2021) 12 month increase of 0.2% people of working age
<b>Trigger point:</b>			
An increase is recorded for 2 consecutive years.			
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Worklessness is defined by the ONS data as where people aged 16-64 years are not in employment. They may be unemployed or economically inactive (unavailable to work because of family commitments, retirement or study, or sickness or disability).			

The latest worklessness figure for working age people in Swansea is from the Annual Population Survey (APS) data for the 12 month period ending December 2021. The figure 44,000 equates to 28.2% of the working age population. The increase of 100 people not in employment is a 0.2% increase on the figure in the AMR2. This is a result of an increase in unemployment of 1,300 despite a decrease in economically inactive people of 1,200.

The worklessness rate (\*people not in employment divided by total number of people of working age) decreased by 1.1% between 2020 and 2021. This is due to the increase in people in Swansea of working age overcompensating for the slight increase in worklessness.

Over the same 12 month period across Wales the number of people not in employment decreased by 0.6% and worklessness rate by 1%.

*Data source: Annual Population Survey (APS) data for the 12 month period ending December 2021. Office for National Statistics (ONS).*

**Action:** No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>Policies RC 1-13</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>16. Contextual Indicator: Productivity – GVA (Gross Value Added) per hour worked.</b>	An increase in productivity	<b>Adoption:</b>	Latest available index figure (for 2017) 101.0	A decrease is recorded for 2 consecutive years
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Latest available index figure (for 2018) 101.1. Annual increase recorded	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No updated data available	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Latest available index figure (for 2020) 92.5. (2019=100). Decrease recorded	



**Analysis:**

ONS data on Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked provides a measure of economic output and productivity. The latest published data for Swansea is for 2020, which was released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in July 2022.

The ONS provide several different types of analysis which have been reviewed for the most appropriate measure to be used for this indicator. The data selected is unsmoothed and based on constant prices (described by the ONS as “real terms” which exclude the effects of inflation) which the ONS advise are the most appropriate for considering time series trends. This data allows an understanding of whether there has been any increase in volumes of goods and services, with the effects of changes in prices removed. By contrast, when using nominal current price data, it is not possible to differentiate between the effects of price changes and quantity changes.

The data is presented in the table below as an index with the base year 2019 (=100) identified by ONS in their analysis. The index base year has changed since the previous publication. The latest productivity (GVA per hour worked) figure available for Swansea which is for 2020 is 92.5, which shows a decrease on the previous year, 2019 (100.0), and is also below index values for 2017 and 2018. Productivity in 2020 was impacted nationally by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which had negative impacts on national and local GDP and GVA. Direct comparisons with data at the time the Plan was adopted are also complicated by the change in index base year. However, equivalent Wales and UK figures saw a small overall increase in index values between 2018-and 2020.

Therefore, annual change recorded is negative with a decrease in GVA per hour worked for Swansea observed for the last 2 available years of data. This is supported by recent GVA per head figures for Swansea which fell by 2.9% between 2019 and 2020).

**Real (unsmoothed) GVA per hour worked indices; 2012 - 2020**

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Region	index	index	index	index	index	index	index	index	index
UK	95.4	95.6	95.8	97.4	97.4	98.7	99.5	100.0	<b>102.2</b>
Wales	93.3	93.2	91.9	93.1	94.3	95.9	95.9	100.0	<b>99.9</b>
Swansea	92.6	87.2	89.9	83.9	88.2	94.2	96.2	100.0	92.5

Data source: ONS Subregional Productivity July 2022 release

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

**Monitoring the Strategic Employment Strategy**

**Job Growth**

3.26 The Plan aims to ensure that sufficient land is available to support forecasted economic growth in

Swansea, which identified potential for 13,600 net new jobs over the Plan period. The new WG guidance requires the monitoring of job growth in line with the employment strategy of the Plan. This indicator was not included in the LDP, therefore, an additional indicator (16a) has been included in the AMR below.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>	SD G –K; RC 1-13
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>16a Key indicator: job growth</b>	An increase in the number of jobs	<b>Adoption:</b>	Latest data available (September 2017): 111,000 jobs
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Latest data available estimates (September 2018): 112,000 jobs  An estimated annual increase of 1,000 jobs
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Latest data available estimates (September 2019): 112,000 jobs  No estimated change
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Latest data available estimates (September 2020): 110,000 jobs.  An estimated decrease of 2,000 jobs (1.8%)
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Employment estimates have been sourced from the annual ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) workplace employment analysis, which is a sample-based employer survey (it does not represent an administrative count of local employment). The latest information available is for September 2020.			

The estimates for September 2020 are shown in the table below, broken down by employment sector, and are compared to the corresponding estimates for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

The Swansea economy has a proportionately large share of jobs in the public administration, health, education, financial services and retail sectors. Of the 110,000 people in employment within Swansea (2020), an estimated 87.3% (96,000) are employed in the service sectors (SICs G-U in the table below).

The estimates suggest that total workplace employment in Swansea decreased between 2019 and 2020 by around 2,000 (-1.8%), whilst total employment also fell slightly in Wales (-0.1%) and GB (-1.7%).

### **Employment Estimates by Broad Industry Sector for Swansea 2017-20**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
1: Agriculture, forestry & fishing (industry section A)	900	900	400	300
2: Mining, quarrying & utilities (B, D and E)	1,000	1250	1000	900
3: Manufacturing (C)	6,000	5000	6000	6000
4: Construction (F)	5,000	5000	5000	4500
5: Motor trades (Part G)	3,000	3000	2500	2250
6: Wholesale (Part G)	2,500	3500	2250	2500
7: Retail (Part G)	11,000	11000	11000	11000
8: Transport & storage (inc postal) (H)	3,000	3000	3000	2500
9: Accommodation & food services (I)	8,000	9000	9000	8000
10: Information & communication (J)	2,250	2500	2500	5000
11: Financial & insurance (K)	5,000	5000	5000	4500
12: Property (L)	1,750	1500	1750	1500
13: Professional, scientific & technical (M)	4,500	4500	6000	5000
14: Business administration & support services (N)	10,000	9000	9000	8000

15: Public administration & defence (O)	13,000	13000	12000	12000
16: Education (P)	11,000	11000	11000	11000
17: Health (Q)	18,000	19000	20000	19000
18: Arts, entertainment, recreation & other services (R-U)	3,500	4000	4500	6000
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>112,000</b>	<b>111,000</b>

Data source: ONS Business Register and Employment Survey (BRES) 2020.

\*These figures come from Swansea Council's Swansea Economic Profile (January 2022) which are based on BRES 2020

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### ***Employment Land Permitted on Allocated Sites 2021-22***

- 3.27 Strategic Policy PS 4 sets out the sustainable employment strategy for the LDP. It allocates mixed use SDAs that incorporate substantive areas for new or retained employment uses of varying scale. There was no identified requirement for the allocation of non-strategic employment sites in the LDP. Indicator 11 analyses the amount of employment development planning applications permitted on the SDAs in 2021-22 in order to monitor delivery of this element of the sustainable employment strategy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16		
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>	SD G – K
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>11. Key Indicator: Employment land permitted (Ha) on allocated sites as a % of all employment allocations.</b>	None specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	Mixed use SDAs allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Employment land permitted in 2019-20 on allocated sites = 2.7 ha*  This is 5% of the 60 ha allocated on SDAs in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Employment land permitted in 2020-21 on allocated sites = 0.8ha  This is 1.3% of the 60 ha allocated on SDAs in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Employment land permitted in 2021-22 on allocated sites = 2.4ha  This is 4.01% of the 60 ha allocated on SDAs in the LDP
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<b>SD G: Land north of M4 Junction 46 (14 Ha allocated):</b> No planning applications for employment development consented in 2021-22.			
<b>SD H: Land north of Waunarlwydd/Fforestfach (26 Ha allocated):</b> Site is at pre-application stage. No planning applications for employment development consented in 2021-22. Of relevance to this site, a planning application (re: 2022/1149/FUL) is currently being considered for the construction of a new production building for Timet UK which would provide 123 sq m of floorspace; and an			

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion application is being considered for a proposed Dimethyl Ether production plant located on land referred to as Former Zip Factory within the site.

**SD I: Swansea Vale (4 Ha allocated):** Site at pre-application stage. No B use employment planning applications consented 2021-22. One application consented on 1.89 hectares land designated as employment land in the Concept Plan for Swansea Vale set out in Policy SD I (ref 2021/2116/FUL) for a car sales dealership. While the proposed use (Unique Use Class) does not fall within the B1 or B2 use classes, it is a business/commercial regional employment opportunity in the Riverside Business Park which Policy SD I seeks to support creating 35 new full time jobs and safeguarding 65 others.

**SD J: Swansea Central Area (4 Ha allocated):**

- 2021/2770/FUL 18-20 Princess Way – Conversion and external refurbishment including 3 storeys of office accommodation (Class B1) comprising a total of 2,660 m2 of B1 space
- 2018/1466/FUL, 14 Cambrian Place Maritime Quarter - Conversion, extension and change of use of building including Offices (class B1) to ground floor - 540 m2 of B1 space
- 2021/0838/NMA and 2021/0810/FUL 242 - 246 Oxford Street – involve changes to the consented use of the first floor of the proposed tower from D1 to office use (B1) comprising further 216 m2 of office space and changes to another area of the first floor from retail to office comprising a further 871m2 of office space.
- 2021/0560/FUL Refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall including 387 m2 of office space.
- 2021/2996/FUL 277-278 Oxford Street conversion of ground, first and second floors (Class A1 / A3) to create Community Hub providing library, archives, cafe, community services, staff office and flexible co-working space (Unique Use). Approximately 655 sq.m of office space and flexible working area is proposed.
- 2021/2388/FUL Ty Castell House, 17 St Mary Street change of use of first floor flat to Office comprising 43 m2.

The above totals up to a maximum of 5,156 sqm (0.52 ha) of B1 uses consented in SD J during 2021-22.

**SD K: Fabian Way Corridor (12 Ha allocated):** No additional employment development permitted in 2021-22. It is of interest to note that within SD K: a Reserved Matters application is being considered (ref 2022/0954/RES) on Plots Pc And Pj SA1 for the development of the UWTSD Innovation Matrix Building (mixed Business B1 / Education D1 with ancillary A3) seeking approval of the details for a new education (use class D1) and business (use class B1) building to be constructed to the west of the UWTSD's Faculty of Architecture,

Computing and Engineering (FACE) & Technology Building (now known as the IQ Building) and north of the Library (Y Fforwm) facing Kings Road. The proposed two storey Innovation Matrix building would have a floorspace of 3146.50 m<sup>2</sup> (GIA).

In addition to the 2.7 ha consented during 2019-2020, and the 0.8 ha of total employment land granted planning consent in 2020-21, the 2.4 ha consented in 2021-22 equates to a total of 5.9 ha or 9.8% of the overall LDP allocation of 60 ha. It should be noted that the Plan provides a higher level of employment land allocations than the identified employment land requirement of 19 ha. The allocations have been made on a range of sites for different types of investors at sustainable locations across the County, to maximise opportunities for investment and to be flexible to changes in market demand.

Therefore it is also useful to note that the amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 31.1% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement.

\*This was erroneously previously reported as only 1 ha and has been amended in AMR 3

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### ***Employment Land Delivered on Allocated Sites 2021-22***

- 3.28 Indicator 19 analyses the amount of employment floorspace delivered on the mixed use SDAs in 2021-22 to monitor delivery of this element of the sustainable employment strategy.



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16</b>																																																				
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>RC 10</b>		<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>PS 4; SD G-K</b>																																																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>		<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																																																	
<b>19 Local Indicator: Amount of employment development on allocated SDAs</b>	To deliver up to 19 ha of employment generating development at allocated mixed use SDAs. Annual targets (Ha) for remainder of the Plan period:																																																				
		<b>SD G</b>	<b>SD H</b>	<b>SD I*</b>	<b>SD J</b>	<b>SD K</b>																																															
	2019/20	1	0	0	0	0																																															
	2020/21	0	0	2	1	2																																															
	2021/22	1	0	1	0	0																																															
2022/23	0	0	0	3	2																																																
2023/24	1	0	1	0	0																																																
2024/25	0	10	0	0	2																																																
2025	1	11	0	0	0																																																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th><b>SD G</b></th> <th><b>SD H</b></th> <th><b>SD I*</b></th> <th><b>SD J</b></th> <th><b>SD K</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td>0</td> <td>10</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>1</td> <td>11</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>						<b>SD G</b>	<b>SD H</b>	<b>SD I*</b>	<b>SD J</b>	<b>SD K</b>	2019/20	1	0	0	0	0	2020/21	0	0	2	1	2	2021/22	1	0	1	0	0	2022/23	0	0	0	3	2	2023/24	1	0	1	0	0	2024/25	0	10	0	0	2	2025	1	11	0	0	0
	<b>SD G</b>	<b>SD H</b>	<b>SD I*</b>	<b>SD J</b>	<b>SD K</b>																																																
2019/20	1	0	0	0	0																																																
2020/21	0	0	2	1	2																																																
2021/22	1	0	1	0	0																																																
2022/23	0	0	0	3	2																																																
2023/24	1	0	1	0	0																																																
2024/25	0	10	0	0	2																																																
2025	1	11	0	0	0																																																
			<b>Adoption:</b>	Mixed use SDAs allocated in the LDP																																																	
			<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	3.29 ha of B8 use completed at SD G in 2019-20*																																																	
				Delivery is in-line with the LDP monitoring trajectory																																																	
			<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	0 ha of B use completed on allocated sites during 2020-21																																																	
				Delivery behind LDP trajectory of 6 ha of employment development forecast to be completed by 2020-21.																																																	
			<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	0 ha of B use completed on allocated sites during 2021-22																																																	
				Delivery behind LDP trajectory of 8 ha of employment development forecast to be completed by 2021-22.																																																	
<b>Analysis:</b>																																																					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SD G: Land north of M4 Junction 46 (14 Ha allocated): Delivery of the DPD, 3.29 ha of land developed for B8 use class, depot at Units 17-19 of Felindre Business Park was completed in 2019-20*. No further development has taken place since. 1 hectare of potential employment generating development at SD G was estimated for 2021-22.</li> </ul>																																																					

- SD H: Land north of Waunarlwydd/Fforestfach (26 Ha allocated): Site is at pre-planning stage. No economic development has taken place, and none was forecasted to take place in the LDP trajectory during 2021-22.
- SD I: Swansea Vale (4 Ha allocated): No employment development delivered during 2021-22. Cumulative employment development has fallen below the estimated target forecasts for 2 consecutive years. However, it should be noted that one application was consented in 2021-22 for development on 1.89 hectares of land designated as employment land in the Concept Plan for Swansea Vale set out in Policy SD I (ref 2021/2116/FUL) for a car sales dealership. A number of pre commencement conditions have been discharged in preparation for development to proceed.
- SD J: Swansea Central Area (4 Ha allocated): No hectares of B1 uses forecast during 2021-22. Whilst there was no significant completed B1 floorspace completed in 2021-22 there is significant B1 development in the pipeline and under construction including 71-72 The Kingsway, Picton Yard 242-246 Oxford Street, 85 The Kingsway; 18-20 Princess Way, Albert Hall, 277-278 Oxford Street. The amount of floorspace delivered has not fallen below the cumulative target for 2 consecutive years so no trigger has been breached.
- SD K: Fabian Way Corridor (12 Ha allocated); No employment B use class was forecasted in 2021-22 and no development has taken place. It is of interest to note that within SD K: a Reserved Matters application is being considered (ref 2022/0954/RES) for the development of the UWTSD Innovation Matrix Building (mixed Business B1 / Education D1 with ancillary A3). The proposed two storey Innovation Matrix building would have a floorspace of 3146.50 m<sup>2</sup> (GIA). While not specifically B1 use, significant development providing employment has come forward with the completion of the Santa Maria private hospital (Class C2) on Plots A15 & A16 in February 2021

Significant development at SD J is progressing and sites designated as employment land (even if not B1 use) at SD I and SD K have either been completed or are in the pipeline. By the very nature of employment development, delivery and take up of land will depend on demand from the market which will have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. Activity in most of the SDAs demonstrates a growing demand. There is not cause for concern in that there is no shortage of a supply of available land of different sizes and location. Nonetheless delivery has fallen below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years in terms of the indicator trigger. Overall, delivery of employment development on the SDAs is behind the estimated schedule, with approximately 3.29 ha delivered against the target of 8 ha by 2022. The statutory 4 year Plan Review that has been identified as required will provide the opportunity to reassess the employment land requirement against the supply of potential employment land and the significant employment related development currently in the pipeline on SDAs.

\*This was erroneously previously reported as only 1 ha and has been amended in AMR 3

**Action:**

**Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

***Employment Development Permitted Outside of Existing Employment Areas 2021-22***

3.29 As part of the sustainable employment strategy of the Plan, Policy RC 10 states that proposals for employment use (B use class) on sites outside existing employment or industrial areas will need to demonstrate in the first instance why the proposal cannot reasonably be located within an existing

employment area, or designated SDA where appropriate, having regard to the nature and scale of the scheme. The policy also recognises the importance of allowing some appropriate flexibility for windfall employment opportunities within settlement boundaries where it is demonstrated that proposals would not have an adverse effect on surrounding uses or allocations. Indicator 20 monitors this element of the employment strategy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RC 10	<b>Related policies:</b>	PS 4
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>20. Local Indicator: Planning applications for employment uses permitted on land outside existing employment or industrial areas.</b>	To steer employment use to existing areas or allocated SDAs in the first instance.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>	Planning consents for B uses issued in 2021-22 have been reviewed. There were no planning consents for employment B uses permitted on land outside SDAs or existing employment or industrial areas contrary to the policy framework.		
<b>Action:</b>	No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.		

### ***Monitoring Loss of the Existing Employment Land Bank 2021-22***

- 3.30 There is no identified requirement for the allocation of non-strategic employment sites in the LDP, but the policy framework instead safeguards the land and premises in active viable employment use for future employment uses, which will allow for churn and

provide choice. The Plan also recognises that appropriate flexibility must be retained for instances where circumstances may change and existing sites become unviable. Policy RC 11 sets out the criteria which must met for a development of established industrial and commercial land and premises for non-business uses falling outside of Use Classes B1, B2 and B8. Indicator 21 monitors this element of the employment strategy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>RC 11</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>PS 4; RC 10</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>21. Local Indicator: Loss of the existing employment land bank.</b>	Protect existing and permitted industrial and commercial use premises and land (both occupied and vacant) that make a valued contribution to the range and choice of land and premises for future business uses.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	A small number of changes of use from an existing B use to a non B use were consented in 2019-20. The decisions were in-line with the LDP policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	A small number of changes of use from an existing B use to a non B use were consented in 2020-21. The decisions were in-line with the LDP policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	A small number of changes of use from an existing B use to a non B use were consented in 2021-22. The decisions were in-line with the LDP policy framework.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
A small number of planning applications for a change of use from an existing B use to a non B use were consented in 2021-22. Policy RC 11 allows for some exceptional circumstances where there will be a need for flexibility to be applied in considering proposals for a change of use away from employment uses, in the interests of ensuring the best use of redundant land and premises, and the decisions were in-line with the LDP policy framework.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

***Monitoring the Retail, Leisure and Office Development Policies***

- 3.31 The Plan sets out a retail and leisure hierarchy under Policy RC 2, identifying a centres first policy approach in-line with national policy. Retail and leisure proposals must in the first instance assess the suitability of sites and premises within the following Centres of the retail hierarchy, having regard to the nature, scale and location of the proposed development.
- i. Swansea Central Area Retail Centre
  - ii. District Centres
  - iii. Local Centres
- 3.32 Indicator 12 monitors the effectiveness of the retail/leisure policy framework. It monitors the amount of major retail and leisure development permitted within and outside the Central Area Retail Centre (defined by Policy RC 3) and nine designated District Centres (defined in Policy RC 5). Major development, for the purposes of this indicator, is defined as any retail or leisure development of 1,000 sq m or more, since Policy RC 6 states that small scale retail and leisure development is defined as being proposals of fewer than 1,000 sq m to meet the day to day needs of the local neighbourhood which will be directed towards designated Local Centres. The LDP

paragraph 2.8.17 confirms that leisure development includes appropriate commercially and publicly provided uses within the Use Classes A3, D1, D2 and Unique Uses (formerly Sui Generis).

- 3.33 Policy RC 12 sets out that the preferred location for significant office development (defined as being over 200 sq m of gross floor area) is the Swansea Central Area. Indicator 12 also monitors the effectiveness of Policy RC 12, defining major office development as over 200 sq m and analysing the amount of office development permitted within the Central Area boundary (defined by SD J) and outside of it.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16			
<b>Key policies:</b>	RC 2; RC 12	<b>Related policies:</b>		PS 4; RC 1; RC 3-11; RC 13
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>12. Core Indicator:</b> <b>Amount of major retail, office and leisure development (sq.) permitted within established town and District Centre boundaries and outside established town and District Centre boundaries.</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p><b>Inside Centres</b></p> <p>The Table below lists the relevant planning applications of major retail and leisure uses granted consent in 2021-22 inside the Central Area Retail Centre and the designated District Centres; and major office uses consented within the Central Area.</p>				

## Major retail, leisure and office development consented inside relevant Centres 2021-22:

Ref	Location	Description	Centre
2021/2770/FUL	18-20 Princess Way SA1 3LW	Conversion, external refurbishment (including glazed curtain walling) and four/ two storey extension over existing building at 2nd / 3rd floors creating 4 no. ground floor retail / commercial units (Class A1 / A3) with 2,660m2 of office accommodation above (Class B1) including roof terrace, 3 no. rooftop meeting pods and green infrastructure	Central Area
2021/0810/FUL	242 - 246 Oxford Street SA1 3BL	Change of use of first floor from retail (Class A1) to 871m2 of office space (Class B1) - revised layout to Planning Permission ref: 2019/2846/FUL granted 5 March 2021.	Central Area
2021/0838/NMA	Picton Yard 242 - 246 Oxford Street SA1 3BL	Biophilic Living and Mixed-use redevelopment Project - Non Material Amendment to planning permission 2019/2846/FUL granted 5th March 2021 to include the use of the first floor tower from D1 to additional Class 216m2 B1 office space;	Central Area
2021/2996/FUL	277-278 Oxford Street Swansea SA1 5HF	Conversion of ground, first and second floors (Class A1 / A3) to create Community Hub providing library, archives, cafe, community services, staff office and flexible co-working space (Unique Use) Approximately 655m2 of office space and flexible working area is proposed.	Central Area



### Outside Centres

An analysis has been undertaken for relevant planning applications granted consent in 2021-22 for significant retail, office and leisure development outside of these defined Centres. The consents were in-line with the policy framework.

Major retail, leisure and office development consented outside relevant Centres 2021-22:

Ref	Location	Description
2021/1331/FUL	Cefn Hengoed Leisure Centre Caldicot Road SA1 7HX	New indoor pitch, extensions to existing leisure centre buildings with an internal and external reconfiguration and refurbishment to enable beneficial use by the school creating 2,570m <sup>2</sup> of additional floorspace. In this case the new sports hall and related proposals are enhancements to an existing facility and can only be located at the existing Leisure Centre/School.
2021/2066/FUL	Cwrtnewydd Mynydd Gelli Wastad Road SA6 6PX	Change of use from residential dwelling (Class C3) to hospital/health related offices (Class B1) making up 265m <sup>2</sup> . The office development is intrinsically linked to the hospital.
2021/2666/FUL	Morrison Hospital Heol Maes Eglwys Cwmrhydyceirw SA6 6NL	Creation of new first floor within existing outpatients atrium space to provide administration office space creating 350m <sup>2</sup> of additional floorspace. The office development is intrinsically linked to the hospital.
2021/0747/FUL	Palace Theatre Prince Of Wales Road SA1 2EY	Refurbishment of the existing Grade II listed theatre building to enable the creation of high quality A2 and 1,792m <sup>2</sup> of B1 commercial office space. The Palace Theatre is identified as a priority and catalyst project on the Upper High Street in the SCARF.
2021/2235/FUL	Unit 6B Parc Tawe SA1 2AL	Installation of a mezzanine (additional floorspace 1202.66m <sup>2</sup> ) into vacant retail unit (Class A1). The proposed increase in A1 floorspace by the mezzanine would still be within the total A1 floorspace cap for Parc Tawe (South).

2021/0560/FUL	Albert Hall Cradock Street SA1 3EP	Refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall to Performance Venue (D2), Cafe Bar (A3) and Food Court (A3) at ground floor, Flexible Office workspace (B1a), Lifestyle Units (B1a and D1), 10x Serviced Apartments (C1) on upper floors, roof terrace, external alterations and associated works. 378m2 office space and 1,422m2 of leisure space proposed. SD J prioritises the reuse of the listed Albert Hall as a catalyst project and the SCARF identifies it for a project for an innovative conversion to an arts / cultural use.
2021/1993/FUL	Unit 5A/5B Parc Tawe City Centre SA1 2AS	Change of use from retail (Class A1) to indoor bouldering / climbing facility (Class D2) 1,858m2. Accepted that there are currently no suitable sequentially preferable sites available, and this the edge of centre location offers the next best sequential option. Will provide a unique leisure attraction to complement existing leisure uses in the Central Area and remove an A1 retail unit that could compete with the Retail Centre.
<b>Action:</b>		
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>		

### ***Monitoring the Rural Enterprise Developments Policy Framework***

- 3.34 Part of the Plan's sustainable employment strategy, set out in Policy PS 4, is based on allowing small scale sustainable employment developments within Key Villages, plus appropriate rural enterprises within the countryside to help enhance and diversify the rural economy. Indicator 13 monitors this element of the strategy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16			
<b>Key policies:</b>	PS 4	<b>Related policies:</b>	CV 2, CV 5, TR 1, TR 5, TR 6, TR 8, TR 10, TR 11	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>13. Local Indicator: Number of rural enterprise planning applications permitted.</b>	An increase in the number of rural enterprises permitted.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No increase in the number of rural enterprise planning applications permitted over a 2 year period.	
				45 relevant applications determined in 2019-20.  43 permitted / prior approval not required.  AMR 2 will provide the first opportunity to monitor annual change under the LDP.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>		59 relevant applications determined 2020-21, 47 of which were permitted/prior approval not required. 1 approved subject to a S106 agreement
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	61 relevant applications were determined, of which 57 were permitted/prior approval not required. 2 were approved subject to a S106 agreement.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Definition of Rural Enterprises: <i>'land related businesses, including agriculture, forestry and other activities that obtain their primary inputs from the site, such as the processing of agricultural, forestry and mineral products together with land management activities and support services (including agricultural contracting), tourism and leisure enterprises'</i> .				

A total of 43 related planning applications for rural enterprises were permitted in 2019-20 (they were either permitted, determined that prior notification of agricultural development was not required or that development was considered lawful).

2019-20 was the first year that the Plan has been in operation. AMR 2 provided the first opportunity to monitor annual change in the number of planning applications permitted under the LDP with regard to the trigger point identified in the monitoring framework. In AMR 2, a total of 47 related planning applications for rural enterprises were permitted in 2020-21 (they were either permitted, determined that prior notification of agricultural development was not required or that development was considered lawful). 13 of the applications were for developments in association with existing rural enterprises. Therefore, there was no increase in the number of rural enterprise planning applications permitted.

In 2021-22, AMR 3, a total of 61 relevant applications were determined, of which 57 were permitted/prior approval not required. 2 were approved subject to a S106 agreement. Of the 61 applications: 6 were in connection with existing rural enterprises; 12 for caravan/camping rallies; 18 for the use of land for seasonal camping; 1 for glamping pods; and 24 in relation to agricultural development.

With regard to the identified trigger and monitoring changes in numbers over time, it should be noted that the majority of applications for rural enterprises are for holiday/visitor accommodation, which can be divided into caravan rallies, temporary permissions for seasonal caravan sites (for 5 or less caravans), and use of existing buildings as holiday let accommodation and festival camping. The number of planning applications for caravan rallies can vary each year, which may influence the target of a 2 year annual increase in the number of planning applications permitted. Similarly, the majority of planning applications for seasonal caravan/camping sites seek temporary permission for 2 years. Therefore, for example, those permitted in 2019-20 will mostly also cover the 2020-21 season and will not require a further planning application next year. Therefore comparisons over time are difficult to judge and this indicator will need to be reviewed when the LDP is reviewed.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

## Policy SD 1: Strategic Development Sites

- 3.35 This section provides an analysis of the monitoring indicators for the Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) allocated in the LDP under policy SD 1; and the individual site policies SD A to SD L, which set out the placemaking principles and development requirements for each site.
- 3.36 The WG guidance<sup>9</sup> requires LPAs to monitor the rate of development on key allocations (linked to phasing trajectories, placemaking principles and infrastructure schemes). This requirement is fulfilled by the indicators in this section.

## SD A: Land South of Glanffrwd Road, Pontarddulais

- 3.37 Site A is allocated for a comprehensive residential led, development of circa 486 homes during the Plan period, incorporating a Primary School, leisure and recreation facilities, public open space and appropriate community facilities, employment and commercial uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 720 homes. Detailed pre planning application discussions have taken place between the LPA and developer.

LDP Objective(s):	All			
Key policies:	Policy SD A	Related policies:		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:	Trigger point:	
<b>27. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD A and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan,	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD A allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at the pre-planning application stage.	
			One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and	

<sup>9</sup> Edition 3 of the Development Plans Manual (DPM), March 2020

<b>Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at the pre-planning application stage EIA Screening Opinion determined for Hybrid Planning application	masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at the pre-planning application stage	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Detailed pre planning application engagement has taken place between the LPA and developer to bring a planning application forward. EIA Screening Opinion (2020/0605/SCR) submitted 20/3/20. Council issued decision that EIA not required 12/5/20. No detailed planning applications have been determined in 2021-22.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>											
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD A</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>								
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>								
<b>28. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD A in accordance with site masterplan and policy.</b>	Delivery of 486 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD A allocated in the LDP	Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.								
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Development has not started.  No completions were forecasted in the LDP during this monitoring year.									
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>58</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	58	2021-2022	90			
Year	Units											
2019-2020	0											
2020-2021	58											
2021-2022	90											

	<table border="1"> <tr><td>2022-2023</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>2023-2024</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>2024-2025</td><td>90</td></tr> <tr><td>2025</td><td>68</td></tr> </table>	2022-2023	90	2023-2024	90	2024-2025	90	2025	68		<b>AMR No. 2:</b> No completions were delivered during this monitoring year.	
2022-2023	90											
2023-2024	90											
2024-2025	90											
2025	68											
			<b>AMR No. 3:</b> No completions were delivered during this monitoring year.									
<b>Analysis:</b>												
<p>Detailed pre planning application discussions have taken place between the LPA and developer to bring a planning application forward. EIA request for Hybrid application submitted and decision issued in 2020-21.</p> <p>This is the second year where dwellings were forecast for delivery on site and the delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a two year period for two consecutive years. The statutory 4 year plan review will provide the opportunity to review policy SD A in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account the extensive progress being made in bringing the site forward towards a planning application currently, and the site may be a commitment in the future LDP as a result.</p>												
<b>Action:</b>												
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>												

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD A	<b>Related policies:</b>		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>29. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD A</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD A allocated in the LDP	No trigger specified in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	

		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at the pre planning application stage	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Site is at the pre planning application stage. No commercial development permitted at this stage.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SD B: Land North of Garden Village**

- 3.38 Site B is allocated for a comprehensive, residential led, development of circa 700 homes during the Plan period, incorporating a Primary School, leisure and recreation facilities, public open space and flexible units for local facilities and commercial uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 750 homes.
- 3.39 Outline planning consent was granted to Persimmon Homes in December 2019 (ref: 2016/1478) for up to 750 homes to be developed in phases, provision of a 2.5 form entry Primary school; circa 280 square metres (sq m) of flexible A1-A3 / D1 floorspace; open space including parks; natural and semi natural green space; amenity green spaces; facilities for children and young people; outdoor sports provision including playing pitches; associated services, infrastructure

and engineering works including new vehicular accesses, improvement works to the existing highway network, new roads, footpaths/cycleways; landscaping works (including sustainable drainage systems), ecological mitigation works and ancillary works. As of the AMR 2 base date, detailed Reserved Matters planning applications (references: 2019/2905/RES and 2019/2906/RES) were being considered by the Authority for the whole site. The Council approved the RM planning application (ref: 2019/2905/RES and 2019/2906/RES) in July 2021 during the AMR 3 period 2021-22. A significant amount of collaborative work has been undertaken between the developer and the Council through a Planning Performance Agreement for this strategic mixed use scheme with the planning approval delivering an exemplar placemaking approach to this Strategic Development Area.



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD B</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>30. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD B and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD B allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Outline planning consent granted in-line with the LDP site policy and masterplan in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Outline planning consent granted in-line with the LDP site policy and masterplan in 2019-20. RM application awaiting determination as of 01/04/2021.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	RM planning consent granted in-line with the LDP site policy and masterplan in 2021-22.
<b>Trigger point:</b>			
One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan. unless exceptions are justified by evidence.			
<b>Analysis:</b>			
This indicator overlaps with indicators 2 and 3. Please refer to text commentary under those indicators.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD B</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>32. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD B</b>	None specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD B allocated in the LDP	None specified in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 including for 280 – 370 sq m of flexible A1-A3 / D1 use class floorspace.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 including for circa 280 – 370 sq m of flexible A1-A3 / D1 use class floorspace.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Reserved matters consent granted in 2021-22 including community commercial space comprising 560sqm in two buildings specified for the A1-A3 and D1 use classes	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
The Plan allocates the site for uses which include “flexible units for local facilities and commercial uses”. Outline planning consent was granted in December 2019 to Persimmon which includes consent for circa 280 – 370 sq m of flexible A1-A3 / D1 use class floorspace. RM application consented in 2021-22 which includes community commercial space comprising 560 sqm in two buildings specified for the A1-A3 and D1 use classes.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SD C: Land South of the A4240, Penllergaer**

3.40 Site C is allocated for a comprehensive, residential led, mixed use development of circa 644 homes during the Plan period, incorporating Primary School, leisure and recreation facilities, public realm, public open space and appropriate community and commercial uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 850 homes.

3.41 As of the base date of AMR 2, a hybrid planning application, part outline for the whole site, and part detailed for 184 of the homes (ref 2018/2697/OUT), was approved by the Council subject to a Section 106 Agreement in 2020-21. The S106 Agreement was signed on 18 January 2021. Development of the site is expected to commence and get well underway in 2022-23.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD C</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>33. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD C and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with <i>Placemaking</i> principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD C allocated in the LDP	One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Outline planning consent for 850 homes granted in 2020-21 with detailed consent for 184 dwellings.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Outline planning consent for 850 homes granted in 2020-21 with detailed consent for 184 dwellings.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
This indicator overlaps with indicators 2 and 3. Please refer to text commentary under those indicators.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD C</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																
<b>34. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD C in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 644 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD C allocated in the LDP																
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	A very small number (4) of residential completions were forecasted by the LDP trajectory to commence in 2019-20. Delivery has not yet commenced.																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>110</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>90</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	4	2020-2021	100	2021-2022	100	2022-2023	110	2023-2024	120	2024-2025	120	2025	90	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	104 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2020-21. Delivery has not yet commenced.
	Year	Units																	
	2019-2020	4																	
2020-2021	100																		
2021-2022	100																		
2022-2023	110																		
2023-2024	120																		
2024-2025	120																		
2025	90																		
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	204 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not yet commenced.																	
			Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.																
<b>Analysis:</b>	204 dwellings were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-22 in the LDP trajectory. Whilst delivery has not yet commenced significant progress has been made with the approval of the Hybrid planning application during 2020-21. The detailed element for the first phase of 184 units is expected to commence and get well underway in 2022-23. The site is therefore expected to deliver dwelling completions in 2022-23 in the amended trajectory presented in this AMR 3 document. Whilst delivery has fallen below the cumulative target for the 2 year period and a trigger has been reached, given the above it is expected that delivery of units will commence at pace in the coming years. Other indicators have identified that a statutory 4 year Plan Review is now required and this review will identify that this site will be a commitment in the next Plan due to the planning consent for the whole site. <b>It is also noteworthy that development has now commenced on this SDA in 2022-23 and xx tbc dwellings have been built as of end of December 2022, and this will be reflected in the AMR 4 findings.</b>																		
<b>Action:</b>																			
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>																			

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<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD C	<b>Related policies:</b>		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>35. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on SD C.</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD C allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Hybrid planning application determined in 2020-21.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Hybrid planning application determined in 2020-21.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Hybrid planning application determined in 2020-21. The Section 106 requires a fully serviced mixed use local centre comprising A1,A2,A3and D1 floorspace, secondary local centre for A1,A2,A3 and D1 use, conversion of part of existing farm buildings to a local community centre/hub within D1/D2 use class.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SD D: West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderry**

3.42 Site D is allocated for a comprehensive, residential led, development of circa 1,088 homes during the Plan period, incorporating a mix of low-medium and

high density residential, a new local centre with commercial units, Primary School, a mix of public realm, open space, play provision and a new community building. Policy SD 1 states that the site

has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 1,950 homes.

- 3.43 A detailed Reserved Matters planning application is currently being determined for the first phase comprising up to 470 homes (ref: 2019/2881/RES). Outline planning consent (ref: 2017/1822/OUT) was granted to Llanmoor Homes in October 2019 for the whole site, comprising consent for up to 1,950 dwellings to be built in phases (1,160 within the LDP

Plan period), creation of a link road, local centre, provision of a primary school, community facilities, public open space including facilities for children, and areas of landscaping (including sustainable drainage systems), outdoor sports provision including playing pitches, associated services, infrastructure and engineering works including new vehicular access, improvements to the existing highway network, new roads, footpaths / cycleways, and ancillary works.

LDP Objective(s):	All				
Key policies:	Policy SD D	Related policies:		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1	
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:	Trigger point:		
<b>36. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD D and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the <i>Placemaking</i> principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with <i>Placemaking</i> principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.		
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>			SD D allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>			Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 in-line with the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>			Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 in-line with the policy framework. Detailed RM application for 470 dwellings currently being determined.
			Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 in-line with the policy framework. Detailed RM		

			application for 470 dwellings currently being determined.	
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<b>Analysis:</b>				
Outline planning consent was granted to Llanmoor Homes in October 2019. A Section 106 Agreement was signed for the provision of infrastructure and community facilities following detailed viability assessments. Decision is in-line with the policy framework and was reviewed in a previous AMR. A detailed Reserved Matters application for 470 dwellings was being determined as of the AMR 3 base date and this has subsequently been approved in 2022-23.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD D</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>37. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD D in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 1,088 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD D allocated in the LDP	Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Residential completions were forecasted by the LDP trajectory to commence in 2019-20. Delivery has not yet commenced.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	280 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2020-21. Delivery has not yet commenced.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	450 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not yet commenced.	

<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>450 residential completions were forecasted in the LDP trajectory to be completed by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not yet commenced. Detailed discussions are ongoing with regard the reserved matters planning application which is expected to be determined in 2022-23. Delivery of the site is behind schedule and further engagement work is required between the LPA and developer to bring the RM planning application to determination and facilitate timely discharge of conditions to enable development to commence. Whilst delivery has now fallen below the cumulative target for the 2 year period and a trigger has been reached, it is expected that delivery of units will commence in 2023-24 and go forward at pace in the coming years. Other indicators have identified that a statutory 4 year Plan Review is now required and this review will identify that this site will be a commitment in the next Plan due to the planning consent for the whole site.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>				

LDP Objective(s):	All			
Key policies:	Policy SD D	Related policies:		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:		Trigger point:
<b>38. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD D.</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD D allocated in the LDP	No trigger specified in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Outline planning consent granted in 2019-20 including a local centre. Floorspace restricted to: - 1,000 sq m A1; - 560 sq m A3; - 250 sq m D1	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No further detailed permissions granted.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No further detailed permissions granted.	

<b>Analysis:</b>				
The Plan allocates the site for uses which include “a new local centre with commercial units”. Outline planning consent was granted in October 2019 to Llanmoor Homes which includes consent for a local centre and community facilities. The floorspace for each element is restricted as follows: 1,000 sq m of A1 floor space; 560 sq m of A3 floor space; 250 sq m of D1 floor space in the commercial centre. No further detailed RM applications determined.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SD E: Land North of Clasemont Road, Morriston**

3.44 Site E is allocated for a comprehensive, residential led, development of circa 490 homes during the Plan period, incorporating a Primary School, leisure and recreation facilities, public open space and

appropriate community facilities and commercial uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 600 homes. Detailed pre-planning application engagement is taking place between the site promoter and LPA with a view to a planning application being submitted by the developer in 2022-23.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD E</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>39. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD E and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD E allocated in the LDP	One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	

<b>site policy and masterplan.</b>		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	justified by evidence.
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Site is at pre- planning application stage.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD E</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>																
<b>40. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD E in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 490 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD E allocated in the LDP	Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.																
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No completions forecasted in the LDP trajectory during this monitoring year.																	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	72 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2020-21. Delivery has not commenced.																	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	152 units were forecast to be completed in the LDP trajectory by																	
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>68</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	72	2021-2022	80	2022-2023	90	2023-2024	90	2024-2025	90	2025	68			
Year	Units																			
2019-2020	0																			
2020-2021	72																			
2021-2022	80																			
2022-2023	90																			
2023-2024	90																			
2024-2025	90																			
2025	68																			

			the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not commenced.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Detailed pre- planning application engagement is taking place between the site promoter and LPA with a planning application expected during 2022-23. The site was forecast to deliver 152 dwellings by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not commenced. Delivery of the site is behind schedule and further engagement work is required between the LPA and developer to conclude the pre planning application stage and facilitate a planning application to be submitted as soon as possible. Whilst delivery has now fallen below the cumulative target for the 2 year period and a trigger has been reached, the site is making progress. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD E in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account the extensive progress being made in bringing the site forward towards a planning application currently, and the site may be a commitment in the future LDP as a result				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD E	<b>Related policies:</b>		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>41. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on SD E</b>	No target specified in the LDP.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD E allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at pre- planning application stage.	
			No trigger specified in the LDP	

<b>Analysis:</b>				
Site is at pre- planning application stage.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SDF: Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett**

3.45 Site F is allocated for a comprehensive residential led, mixed use development of circa 371 homes during the Plan period, incorporating leisure and recreation facilities, public open space and retained health facilities. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period (56 units),

while an initial phase of the development, comprising 73 units, has been completed in 2020-21. This latter part of the site with planning consent (ref: 2014/0969), which was granted in 2015 under the Unitary Development Plan (UDP), is shown as a commitment in the LDP and does not form part of the LDP allocation. Overall, there is total scope for 500 homes at the combined site. The allocated area is at the pre planning application stage.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD F</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>42. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD F and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD F allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	The area comprising the LDP allocation is at the pre planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	The area comprising the LDP allocation is at the pre planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	The area comprising the LDP allocation is at the pre planning application stage.	
One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.				

<b>Analysis:</b>				
The area of the site that was completed in 2020-21 is shown as a commitment in the LDP following planning consent under the UDP. The wider site allocated in the LDP is at the pre planning application stage.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD F</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>43. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD F in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 371 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD F allocated in the LDP	
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No completions were forecasted in the LDP trajectory during this monitoring year for the allocated area.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	52 dwellings were forecast during 2020-2021. Delivery has not commenced.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	112 dwellings were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not commenced.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Site is at pre planning application stage with detailed engagement taking place between the site promoter and LPA in order to facilitate a planning application to come forward. 112 completions were forecast by the end of 2021-22 but delivery has not yet commenced. Delivery of the site is behind schedule and further engagement work is required between the LPA and developer to facilitate a planning application to be submitted as soon as possible. This is the second year where dwellings were forecast for delivery on site and the				

delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a two year period for two consecutive years. Therefore the trigger has been breached and other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD F in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account the extensive progress being made in bringing the site forward towards a planning application currently, and the site may be a commitment in the future LDP as a result.

**Action:**

**Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD F</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>44. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD F</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD F allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	The LDP allocation is at pre planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	The LDP allocation is at pre planning application stage.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	The LDP allocation is at pre planning application stage.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
The LDP allocation is at pre planning application stage.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				



**SD G: Land Northwest of M4 Junction 46, Llangyfelach**

- 3.46 Site G is allocated for a comprehensive mixed use development of circa 565 homes during the Plan period, incorporating a mix of low-medium and high density residential, a new local centre with commercial units, Primary School, a mix of public realm, open space and play provision, new community buildings, and a strategic business park with 14 hectares of potential development areas that could accommodate appropriate B1 and B2 uses.
- 3.47 Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of

around 800 homes.

- 3.48 An outline planning application was submitted by WG for the whole site (ref: 2018/1618/OUT) in July 2018 for mixed-use development comprising residential development (up to 800 dwellings, including affordable housing), primary school, local centre (village hall (Class D1) and retail space (Class A1) with flats above), recreational facilities including sports pavilion (Class D2), open space, improvements to existing road bridges, habitat enhancement and management, and all associated building and engineering operations and landscaping.

LDP Objective(s):	All		
Key policies:	Policy SD G	Related policies:	SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:	Trigger point:
<b>45. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD G and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD G allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2021-22.
			One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.

<b>Analysis:</b>	
No planning applications determined in 2021-22.	
<b>Action:</b>	
No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.	

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All																		
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD G	<b>Related policies:</b>	SD 1, SD 2, PS 1																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																
<b>46. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD G in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 565 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD G allocated in the LDP																
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No completions were forecasted in the LDP trajectory during this monitoring year.																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>75</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	90	2021-2022	100	2022-2023	100	2023-2024	100	2024-2025	100	2025	75	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	90 completions were forecast during 2020-21. Delivery has not commenced.
	Year	Units																	
	2019-2020	0																	
	2020-2021	90																	
	2021-2022	100																	
	2022-2023	100																	
2023-2024	100																		
2024-2025	100																		
2025	75																		
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	190 completions were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-22. Delivery has not commenced.																	
			Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.																

<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>190 completions were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-22 but delivery has not yet commenced. This is the second year where dwellings were forecast for delivery on site and the delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a two year period for two consecutive years. Therefore the trigger has been breached and other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD G in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. The LPA needs to continue to work with Welsh Government to bring the planning application to determination. The LDP review will need to take into account the progress being made with regard to the planning application, and the site may be a commitment in the future LDP if planning consent is granted.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<p><b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b></p>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD G</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>47 Local Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD G</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD G allocated in the LDP	One application permitted contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2020-21.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2021-22.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No commercial development permitted in 2021-22.				

<b>Action:</b>	
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>	

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>				
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD G</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>		
<b>48. Key Indicator: Amount of employment development delivered on SD G</b>	To deliver up to 14 Ha of potential employment generating development at SD G.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD G allocated in the LDP		
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period				<b>AMR No. 1:</b>
	Year	Ha	Delivery of 1 Ha of B8 use class development completed.		
	2019-2020	1			
	2020-2021	0	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No delivery of employment land forecast during 2020-21.	
	2021-2022	1			
	2022-2023	0	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No delivery of employment land during 2021-22.	
	2023-2024	1			
2024-2025	0				
2025	1				
<b>Analysis:</b>					
Delivery of the DPD, 3.29 ha of B8 use class, depot at Units 17-19 of Felindre Business Park was completed in 2019-20. No further development has taken place since. 1 hectare of potential employment generating development at SD G was forecasted in 2021-22.					
<b>Action:</b>					
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>					

**SD H: North of Waunarlwydd/Fforestfach**

Regional Employment Site with 26 hectares of potential development areas that could accommodate appropriate B1, B2 and B8 uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 1,319 homes. The site is at the pre planning application stage.

3.49 Site H is allocated for a comprehensive mixed use development of circa 716 homes during the Plan period, incorporating public realm, a Primary School, commercial units, community buildings and a

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD H</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>49. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD H and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD H allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at pre-application stage.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at pre-application stage.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at pre-application stage.
<b>Analysis:</b>			<b>Trigger point:</b>
			One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.
	Site is at pre planning application stage		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																	
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD H</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>															
<b>50. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD H in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 716 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD H allocated in the LDP															
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:																	
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>126</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>149</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>133</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>96</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>52</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	126	2021-2022	149	2022-2023	160	2023-2024	133	2024-2025	96	2025	52
	Year		Units															
	2019-2020		0															
	2020-2021		126															
	2021-2022		149															
2022-2023	160																	
2023-2024	133																	
2024-2025	96																	
2025	52																	
	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No completions were forecasted during this monitoring year in the LDP trajectory.																
	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	126 dwellings were forecast during 2020-2021. Delivery has not commenced.																
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	275 dwellings were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-2022. Delivery has not commenced.																
<b>Analysis:</b>																		
275 dwellings were forecast for delivery by the end of 2021-2022 but delivery has not yet commenced. Site is currently at pre-planning application stage. This is the second year where dwellings were forecast for delivery on site and the delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a two year period for two consecutive years. Therefore the trigger has been breached and other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD H in light of the most up to																		

date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account the extensive progress being made in bringing the site forward towards a planning application currently, and the site may be a commitment in the future LDP if planning consent is granted.

**Action:**

**Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD H</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>51. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on SD H</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD H allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Site is at pre planning application stage.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Site is at pre planning application stage.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Site is at pre planning application stage.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
No planning applications determined.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD H</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																
<b>52. Key Indicator: Amount of employment development delivered on SD H</b>	To deliver up to 26 Ha of employment generating development at SD H	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD H allocated in the LDP																
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No employment generating development forecasted in the LDP during this monitoring year.																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Ha</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Ha	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	0	2021-2022	0	2022-2023	0	2023-2024	0	2024-2025	10	2025	11	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No employment generating development forecasted in the LDP during this monitoring year.
	Year	Ha																	
	2019-2020	0																	
2020-2021	0																		
2021-2022	0																		
2022-2023	0																		
2023-2024	0																		
2024-2025	10																		
2025	11																		
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No employment generating development forecasted in the LDP during this monitoring year.																	
			The amount of floorspace built falls below the cumulative requirement for all SD sites for 2 consecutive years.																
<b>Analysis:</b>	<p>No economic development has taken place and none was forecasted to take place in the LDP trajectory during 2021-22.</p> <p>Of relevance to this site, a planning application (re: 2022/1149/FUL) is currently being considered for the construction of a new production building for Timet UK which would provide 123 sq m of floorspace; and an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Opinion application is being considered for a proposed Dimethyl Ether production plant located on land referred to as Former Zip Factory within the site.</p>																		
<b>Action:</b>																			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>																			



**SD I: Swansea Vale**

3.50 Site I is allocated for a comprehensive, residential led, mixed use development of circa 410 homes during the Plan period, and the completion of the Swansea Vale

business park for commercial and employment use with 4 hectares of potential development areas that could accommodate appropriate B1 and B2 uses, with appropriate leisure uses. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 450 homes.

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<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD I</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>53. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD I and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD I allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning application determined
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning application determined
<b>Analysis:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2021-22.		
<b>Action:</b>	No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.		

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD I</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>																	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																
<b>54. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD I in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 410 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD I allocated in the LDP																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-20</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-21</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-22</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-23</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-24</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-25</td> <td>100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>50</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-20	0	2020-21	10	2021-22	100	2022-23	100	2023-24	50	2024-25	100	2025	50	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No completions were forecasted during this monitoring year in the LDP trajectory.
	Year	Units																	
	2019-20	0																	
	2020-21	10																	
2021-22	100																		
2022-23	100																		
2023-24	50																		
2024-25	100																		
2025	50																		
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	A small number (10) of completions were forecast during this monitoring period. Delivery has not yet commenced.																
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	110 were forecast for delivery by the end of this monitoring period. Delivery has not yet commenced.																
<b>Analysis:</b>																			
<p>110 were forecast for delivery by the end of this monitoring period but delivery has not yet commenced. This is the second year where dwellings were forecast for delivery on site and the delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a two year period for two consecutive years. Therefore the trigger has been breached and other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD I in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account progress being made in bringing the site forward. The LPA will need to continue to facilitate engagement within the Council to bring this site forward.</p>																			
<b>Action:</b>																			
<p><b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b></p>																			

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<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD I	<b>Related policies:</b>		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
55. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD I	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD I allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications have been determined.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications have been determined.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	One application consented on 1.89 hectares land (ref 2021/2116/FUL) for a car sales dealership	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No B use employment planning applications consented 2021-22.				
One application consented on 1.89 hectares land designated as employment land in the Concept Plan for Swansea Vale set out in Policy SD I (ref 2021/2116/FUL) for a car sales dealership. While the proposed use (Unique Use Class) does not fall within the B1 or B2 use classes, it is a business/commercial regional employment opportunity in the Riverside Business Park which Policy SD I seeks to support creating 35 new full time jobs and safeguarding 65 others.				
<b>Action:</b>				
No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD I</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>56. Key Indicator: Amount of employment development delivered on SD I</b>	To deliver up to 4 Ha employment generating development at SD I.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD I allocated in the LDP
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No employment generating development forecasted in the LDP trajectory during this year.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2 ha of employment development forecast during the year. No employment development has occurred
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	1 ha of employment development forecast during the year. No employment development has occurred
<b>Analysis:</b>	No B use employment development delivered during 2021-22. However, it should be noted that one application was consented in 2021-22 for development on 1.89 hectares of land designated as employment land in the Concept Plan for Swansea Vale set out in Policy SD I (ref 2021/2116/FUL) for a car sales dealership. While the proposed use (Unique Use Class) does not fall within the B1 or B2 use classes, it is a business/commercial regional employment opportunity in the Riverside Business Park which Policy SD I seeks to support creating 35 new full time jobs and safeguarding 65 others. By the very nature of employment development, delivery and take up of land will depend on demand from the market which will have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. There is not cause for concern in that there is no shortage of a supply of available land of different sizes and location. Nonetheless delivery has fallen below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years in terms of the indicator trigger. The statutory 4 year Plan Review that has been identified as required by other indicators will provide the opportunity to review policy SD I in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>			

## SD J: Central Area and Waterfront

3.51 Site J is allocated for a range of regeneration projects with the overall aim of creating a vibrant, distinctive, Central Area that capitalises on its unique assets to become a destination of regional and national significance. It includes proposals for a high quality retail and leisure led scheme, mixed use waterfront developments, circa 856 homes, 4 hectares of potential development areas that could accommodate B1 uses, and area initiatives and environmental enhancements during the Plan period. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 906 homes. Some other development sites within the Central Area were granted planning consent under the UDP and are shown as commitments in the LDP.

3.52 Construction is progressing at pace of the mixed use strategic regeneration scheme, Swansea Central, on land comprising of the former St David's Centre and other land north and south of Oystermouth Road. The scheme is a transformational project which will help provide economic growth for the regeneration of Swansea City Centre and strengthen its role as a regional shopping and leisure destination within the Swansea City Bay Region.

3.53 Outline consent was approved for an amended Swansea Central proposal (ref: 2019/0980/S73) in 2019-20 for the refurbishment, alteration and/or demolition of all existing buildings/ structures on the site (except St Mary's Church and St David's Church) and redevelopment of the site with indicative access/layout and scale parameters on the north site of a maximum of 1 to 7 storeys and maximum new floorspace of 84,050 sqm comprising retail/ commercial/office use (Classes A1/A2/A3/B1) residential (Class C3), non-residential institution (Class D1) and leisure (Class D2), multistorey car park and redevelopment of south site of a maximum of 40,700 sqm of floorspace comprising a new arena (Class D2), up to 13 storey hotel/residential building (Class C1/ C3), food and drink (Class A3), undercroft car park, potential energy centre. Across both sites, the provision of associated new public open space/public realm and landscaping, new pedestrian and vehicular access and servicing arrangements (including a pedestrian bridge link across Oystermouth Road), provision of new bus stops on Oystermouth Road, new pedestrian access through existing arches along Victoria Quay, relocation of Sir H Hussey Vivian statue, earthworks, and plant.

3.54 Reserved matters were also approved (ref: 2019/1373/RES) during 2019-20 for Phase 1 of the

northern part of the scheme. Reserved matters for the southern part of the site (2018/1648/RES), including the arena, were approved before adoption of the LDP in 2018.

- 3.55 Full planning permission was granted during 2020-21 for a key regeneration project within SD J in terms of the former Oceana building at 71-72 the Kingsway Swansea. The proposal involves a mixed use building to provide flexible office/ workspace (Class B1) with ancillary communal and commercial uses at basement, lower ground floor and ground floor levels (B1/A1/A3/D1 and D2) and public event/meeting space at roof level (B1/A3/D1/D2), pedestrian link through to Oxford St and public realm and green infrastructure works (2020/0490/FUL). The development intends to deliver a Digital Village, and is being developed as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal regeneration project with a brief to deliver tech focused flexible office space and amenities. The overall objective is to deliver a flexible digital environment that acts as a catalyst and example for future development. In line with SD J the proposal is intended to act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the Kingsway as a new business district and an area that supports a range of opportunities for city living, working and learning. In addition, a further application (2020/1437/FUL) was granted for the conversion of the adjacent building at 69/70 for a mixed use scheme which will complement the regeneration of this area.

In addition planning permission was granted subject to a S106 (2020/0097/FUL) for a 328 bed high rise purpose built student accommodation at Land north of Jockey St Swansea. Whilst not with SD J it lies immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the SDA.

- 3.56 In 2021-22 a number of significant applications were determined including:
- 2021/2770/FUL 18-20 Princess Way – Conversion and external refurbishment including 3 storeys of office accommodation (Class B1) comprising a total of 2,660 m2 of B1 space
  - 2018/1466/FUL, 14 Cambrian Place Maritime Quarter - Conversion, extension and change of use of building including Offices (class B1) to ground floor
  - 2021/0838/NMA and 2021/0810/FUL 242 - 246 Oxford Street – involve changes to the consented use of the first floor of the proposed tower from D1 to office use (B1) comprising further 216 m2 of office space and changes to another area of the first floor from retail to office comprising a further 871m2 of office space.
  - 2021/0560/FUL Refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall including 387 m2 of office space.
  - 2021/2996/FUL 277-278 Oxford Street conversion of ground, first and second floors (Class A1 / A3) to create Community Hub providing library, archives, cafe, community services, staff office and flexible co-working space (Unique Use). Approximately 655 sq.m of office space and flexible working area is proposed.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD J</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>57. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD J and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD J allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Amended outline and reserved matters consent granted in 2019-20 in-line with the site policy and masterplan for the Swansea Central regeneration site.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Planning consents permitted in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Planning consents permitted in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
This indicator overlaps with indicators 2 and 3. Please refer to text commentary under those indicators.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																	
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD J</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>															
<b>58. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD J in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 856 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD J allocated in the LDP															
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	3 units recorded as completed in SD J on sites regarded as forming the site capacity (ie they were not commitments in the LDP)															
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>258</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>175</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>150</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	50	2020-2021	73	2021-2022	50	2022-2023	258	2023-2024	50	2024-2025	175	2025	150	52 apartments in the Orchard House scheme and 33 in the Swansea Central Scheme Phase 1 were under construction
	Year	Units																
2019-2020	50																	
2020-2021	73																	
2021-2022	50																	
2022-2023	258																	
2023-2024	50																	
2024-2025	175																	
2025	150																	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	68 new homes were completed in SD J including the 52 at Orchard House.  Development has continued on other schemes including the Swansea Central Scheme Phase 1 for 33 residential units															
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	19 new homes were completed in SD J.  Development has continued on other schemes with Swansea Central Scheme Phase 1 for 33															
			Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.															



			residential units close to completion as of the base date of this AMR.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
173 units were forecasted to be completed in the LDP trajectory by the end of 2021-22. 90 new dwellings have been delivered in the SD J area, while other developments are under construction including 33 units in the Swansea Central Scheme Phase 1. Further sites regarded as commitments in the LDP have also been completed including 30 units at 229-233 High Street in 2019-20 and 22 units at Castle Street in 2021-22. There are also other consents in the development pipeline with planning consent such as 12-14 College Street (2018/0268/FUL for 28 units), Biophilic Living Picton Yard 242-246 Oxford Street (2019/2846/FUL for 50 units), while the Swansea Central development has scope for significant further residential development (up to 338 units in total) within the outline consent. Whilst the total delivery falls below the cumulative target over two years developments are coming forward. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD J in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	All			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy SD J	<b>Related policies:</b>		SD 1, SD 2, PS 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>59. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD J</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD J allocated in the LDP	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Outline planning consent for the Swansea Central scheme comprises a minimum of 40,425 sq m of additional commercial floorspace in the Central Area and maximum of 85,750 sq m.	
			No trigger specified in the LDP	

			In addition, on other sites, 4,262 sq m of commercial development was given planning consent in 2019-20.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Full planning consent granted for Digital Village on the former Oceana building on the Kingsway comprises a total of 13588 sq m of commercial floorspace  In addition, on other sites, 1,482sqm sq m of commercial development was given planning consent in 2020-21.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	1858 sqm sq m of commercial development was given planning consent in 2021-22	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Planning permission was granted during 2021-22 for a number of key regeneration projects within SD J which are listed under indicators 11 and 12. It should be noted that as some of these were changes of use, this is not additional commercial floorspace but has resulted in changes in the amount of floorspace permitted for certain commercial use classes.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>				
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD J</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>			
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>		
<b>60. Key Indicator: Amount of employment development delivered on SD J</b>	To deliver up to 4 Ha of B1 uses at SD J:	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD J allocated in the LDP		
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Development of Swansea Central has commenced.		
				<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	1 ha of B1 uses forecast to be delivered in 2020-21. Development of Swansea Central has commenced.
				The amount of floorspace built falls below the cumulative requirement for all SD sites for 2 consecutive years	

Year	Ha
2019-2020	0
2020-2021	1
2021-2022	0
2022-2023	3
2023-2024	0
2024-2025	0
2025	0

<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>No hectares of B1 uses forecast during 2021-22. Whilst there was no significant completed B1 floorspace in 2021-22 there is significant B1 development in the pipeline or under construction including a state-of-the-art office development at the former Oceana nightclub site at 71-72 The Kingsway, development at Picton Yard 242-246 Oxford Street, change of use of the upper floors to offices at 85 The Kingsway; conversion of 18-20 Princess Way for 3 storeys of B1 space, refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall including office space, creation of a Community Hub at 277-278 Oxford Street providing library, archives, cafe, community services, staff office and flexible co-working space. The amount of floorspace delivered has not fallen below the cumulative target for 2 consecutive years so no trigger has been breached.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**SD K: Fabian Way Corridor**

3.57 Site K is allocated for mixed commercial, residential (525 dwellings) and employment development with 12 hectares of potential development areas that could

accommodate appropriate B1, B2 and B8 uses to complement the role of the Swansea Central Area as the City Region economic driver, and facilitating an Innovation Corridor.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD K</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>61. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD K and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD K allocated in the LDP.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Planning application permitted in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No relevant planning applications permitted during 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No relevant planning applications permitted during 2021-22.
<b>Trigger point:</b>	One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.		
<b>Analysis:</b>	No relevant planning applications determined during 2021-22.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD K</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																
<b>62. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD K in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 525 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD K allocated in the LDP																
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	16 units completed in 2019-20 on sites within the SD K boundary.																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>55</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Units	2019-2020	50	2020-2021	50	2021-2022	80	2022-2023	80	2023-2024	80	2024-2025	80	2025	55	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	44 units completed in 2020-21 on sites within the SD K boundary.
	Year	Units																	
	2019-2020	50																	
2020-2021	50																		
2021-2022	80																		
2022-2023	80																		
2023-2024	80																		
2024-2025	80																		
2025	55																		
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No units completed in 2021-22 on sites within the SD K boundary.																	
			Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.																
<b>Analysis:</b>	60 units completed in 2019-20 and 2020-21, but none in 2021-22. Delivery of homes has fallen below the cumulative target over a 2 year period for 2 consecutive years, but was very close to the LDP trajectory of 50 dwellings in 2020-21. There are sites in the pipeline including significant planning applications being determined by the LPA received from developers totalling 180 additional housing units on 3 development sites in SA1, while there are other plots for residential remaining. Further work needed to engage with developers on sites coming forward in the pipeline to bring them forward for development. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review policy SD K in light of the most up to date deliverability evidence. This review will need to take into account the extensive progress being made in bringing several sites forward currently.																		
<b>Action:</b>																			
<b>Relevant policy to be reviewed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required</b>																			

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<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD K</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>63. Key Indicator: Provision of supporting infrastructure on SD K in accordance with the Site Masterplan and Policy.</b>	All development on SDAs to be supported by community facilities and infrastructure.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD K allocated in the LDP.	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Planning application permitted in accordance with the site policy and masterplan.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No further relevant planning applications in 2020-21	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No further relevant planning applications in 2021-22	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No relevant planning applications permitted during 2021-22.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD K</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>64. Key Indicator: Amount of Commercial development (sq m) permitted on Strategic Development Site SD K in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD K allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Construction of a drive thru unit Class A1 197 sq m GIA (ref 2020/0401/FUL) permitted in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No commercial development permitted in 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No additional commercial development permitted in 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>	No additional commercial development permitted in 2021-22. It is of interest to note that within SD K: a Reserved Matters application is being considered (ref 2022/0954/RES) on Plots Pc And Pj SA1 for the development of the UWTSD Innovation Matrix Building (mixed Business B1 / Education D1 with ancillary A3) seeking approval of the details for a new education (use class D1) and business (use class B1) building to be constructed to the west of the UWTSD's Faculty of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (FACE) & Technology Building (now known as the IQ Building) and north of the Library (Y Fforwm) facing Kings Road. The proposed two storey Innovation Matrix building would have a floorspace of 3146.50 m <sup>2</sup> (GIA).		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD K</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>65. Key Indicator: Amount of employment development delivered on SD K</b>	To deliver up to 12 Ha of B1 uses at SD K.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD K allocated in the LDP
	Annual targets for remainder of Plan period:	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No delivery forecasted in the LDP trajectory in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	1ha of B1 uses forecast in the LDP trajectory in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No delivery of B1 uses.
			No delivery forecasted in the LDP trajectory in 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
No employment B use class was forecasted in 2021-22 and no development has taken place.			
It is of interest to note that within SD K: a Reserved Matters application is being considered (ref 2022/0954/RES) on Plots Pc And Pj SA1 for the development of the UWTSD Innovation Matrix Building (mixed Business B1 / Education D1 with ancillary A3) seeking approval of the details for a new education (use class D1) and business (use class B1) building to be constructed to the west of the UWTSD's Faculty of Architecture, Computing and Engineering (FACE) & Technology Building (now known as the IQ Building) and north of the Library (Y Fforwm) facing Kings Road. The proposed two storey Innovation Matrix building would have a floorspace of 3146.50 m <sup>2</sup> (GIA).			

While not specifically B1 use, significant development providing employment has come forward with the completion of the Santa Maria private hospital (Class C2) on Plots A15 & A16 in February 2021.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### **SD L: Tawe Riverside Corridor and Hafod Morfa Copperworks**

3.58 Land and buildings are allocated within Site L for a mixed use heritage and culture led regeneration site consisting of up to 258 dwellings, employment uses (B1), leisure and community uses, and contributing towards the preservation and enhancement of the area's unique historic and cultural heritage. Policy SD 1 states that the site has capacity for further homes beyond the Plan period with a total capacity of around 370 homes.

3.59 Whilst no planning applications were submitted for the wider regeneration of the site, during 2020-21 Listed Building consent was granted for the stabilisation of the Laboratory building (a Grade II Listed Building) on the site, insertion of new floors, staircase and new roof structure as part of placemaking principles for this site to include a mixed use heritage led project including restoration and reuse of historic buildings. It is expected that once renovated the Laboratory can potentially occupy an A3 type restaurant/cafe. The

Council also dealt with a number of Discharge of condition, Non material amendments and S73 applications associated with previous consents for the restoration of other Listed Buildings on the site.

3.60 In 2021-22 consent was granted for the change of use of the former Hafod laboratory building from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3 with works to provide new service vehicle access to the building and allocation of car parking from existing adjacent car park to serve proposed future change of use (ref: 2021/0711/FUL), to provide a heritage led mixed use regeneration project.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD L</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	
<b>66. Key Indicator: Delivery of SD L and supporting infrastructure in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD L allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No relevant planning applications determined in 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the site policy and masterplan.
<b>Trigger point:</b>			
One planning application permitted not in accordance with the site policy and masterplan , unless exceptions are justified by evidence.			
<b>Analysis:</b>			
1 relevant application permitted in 2021-22 - planning permission was granted for a full planning application for the change of use of former Hafod laboratory building (part of the remains of the former Hafod and Morfa Copperworks) from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3 with works to provide new service vehicle access to the building and allocation of car parking from existing adjacent car park to serve proposed future change of use. The Hafod / Morfa copperworks site is allocated in the LDP policy for a heritage-led mixed use destination and it is considered that the proposed use of the building would be compliant with the aims and objectives of policy SD L, and would support the redevelopment of the wider site.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>																				
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD L</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>																		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																		
<b>67. Key Indicator: Delivery of new homes on SD L in accordance with site policy and masterplan.</b>	Delivery of 258 homes by end of Plan period.	<b>Adoption:</b> SDA allocated in the LDP	Delivery of homes falls below the cumulative target over any 2 year period for 2 consecutive years.																		
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Units</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018-2019</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019-2020</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020-2021</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021-2022</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022-2023</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023-2024</td> <td>40</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024-2025</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td>53</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year		Units	2018-2019	0	2019-2020	0	2020-2021	0	2021-2022	45	2022-2023	50	2023-2024	40	2024-2025	70	2025	53	<b>AMR No. 1:</b> No completions were forecasted during 2019-20 in the LDP trajectory.
	Year	Units																			
	2018-2019	0																			
	2019-2020	0																			
2020-2021	0																				
2021-2022	45																				
2022-2023	50																				
2023-2024	40																				
2024-2025	70																				
2025	53																				
	<b>AMR No. 2:</b> No completions were forecasted during 2020-21 in the LDP trajectory																				
	<b>AMR No. 3:</b> 45 units were forecasted during 2021-22 in the LDP trajectory																				
<b>Analysis:</b>	No residential development in 2021-22 though 45 units were forecasted for delivery in the LDP, therefore completions have fallen behind the estimated trajectory for the first time.																				
<b>Action:</b>																					
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>																					

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD L</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>68. Key Indicator: Provision of supporting infrastructure on SD L in accordance with the Site Masterplan and Policy.</b>	All development on SDAs to be supported by community facilities and infrastructure.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SDA allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Listed Building Consent application approved for Grade II Listed Laboratory.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Consent granted for change of use of former laboratory building from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3
<b>Analysis:</b>	Consent granted in 2021-22 for the change of use of the former laboratory building from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3 with works to provide new service vehicle access to the building and allocation of car parking from existing adjacent car park to serve proposed future change of use (ref: 2021/0711/FUL). Work is ongoing to restore the buildings. This is considered to contribute to the wider mixed use heritage led project for the regeneration of this SDA.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy SD L</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD 1, SD 2, PS 1</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>69. Key Indicator: Commercial development (sq m) permitted on SD L</b>	No target specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SDA allocated in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications determined in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Listed Building Consent application approved for Grade II Listed Laboratory.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Consent granted for change of use of former laboratory building from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Consent granted for change of use of former laboratory building from Use Class B1/B2 to Mixed Use Classes A1, A2 and A3 with works to provide new service vehicle access to the building and allocation of car parking from existing adjacent car park to serve proposed future change of use (ref: 2021/0711/FUL). Site area 942 sq m.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## ***Policy SD 2: Masterplanning Principles***

3.61 The Plan presents an unprecedented opportunity for the Council to deliver new places and neighbourhoods across the County on a scale capable of creating exemplars of sustainable living consistent with the WG's vision of healthy, cohesive communities set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

3.62 The indicators in this section monitor the implementation of Policy SD 2 Masterplanning Principles.

3.63 The policy requires all sites where there is capacity for 100 homes or more, to deliver a comprehensively planned, sustainable neighbourhood with a distinct sense of place, and sets out design and placemaking criteria for such developments, and further specific criteria for SDAs.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 19 ,20		
<b>Key policies:</b>	SD 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>22. Local Indicator: The number of planning applications refused on design/ Placemaking grounds.</b>	None specified in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD 2 adopted in the LDP
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications of 100+ residential units refused on design / placemaking grounds in 2019-20 under Policy SD 2.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications of 100+ residential units refused on design / placemaking grounds in 2020-21 under Policy SD 2.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications of 100+ residential units refused on design / placemaking grounds in 2021-22 under Policy SD 2.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Policy SD 2 relates to all development with a residential capacity of 100 or more residential units. No such planning applications have been refused based on design/placemaking grounds in 2021-22. It should be noted that there has been, and continues to be, extensive engagement between Council officers and site promoters on large residential sites at the pre-application stage, including on SDAs, to promote good design and placemaking.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

3.64 Policy SD 2 sets out that on all sites where there is capacity for 100 homes or more, development must deliver a comprehensively planned, sustainable

neighbourhood with a distinct sense of place that achieves net residential density across the site of at least 35 homes per hectare, with higher density



residential and mixed uses located along public transport corridors and in focal areas, lower densities on rural/sensitive edges, and a range of densities elsewhere to meet different needs and create distinct character areas. Indicator 24 monitors the net

residential density on sites of 100+ homes, which were granted planning consent in 2021-22.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>17, 19 ,20</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>SD 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>24. Local Indicator: The number of planning applications permitted below 35 dwellings per hectare on sites of 100 dwellings or more.</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	<b>Adoption:</b>	SD 2 adopted in the Plan.	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications of 100 dwellings or more approved contrary to the LDP policy framework in 2019-20 with regards to residential density.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications of 100 dwellings or more approved contrary to the LDP policy framework in 2020-21 with regards to residential density.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications of 100 dwellings or more approved contrary to the LDP policy framework in 2021-22 with regards to residential density.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
During the course of this AMR period two applications were approved for 100+ residential units, details of the applications are included below. Outline consents are excluded from this indicator as the final details of residential areas will be subject to further reserved matters applications which will need to be monitored in future years.				

**2020/2559/RES Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry Co Ltd , Great Western Terrace, Cwmrhydyceirw (Details of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline planning permission 2014/0977 granted on appeal 11th January 2018) for phases 3 (73 dwellings) and 4 (36 dwellings), open space and ancillary infrastructure (Amended plans received)**

The density was broadly established at outline application stage where permission was granted for circa 300 new dwellings at appeal in 2018. This included a layout shown indicatively at masterplan with the intention to establish a robust framework to co-ordinate development by means of a design-led approach. The overall density for the site generally aligns with that approved at outline, and when viewed across the 5 phases, is considered acceptable to achieve a high quality new place.

**2019/2905/RES Reserved Matters application for the details of the access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping for the construction of 705 residential dwellings**

The residential development for 705 homes has a net density of 37.7 dwellings per hectare. This is broadly in line with the density target and therefore is policy compliant and welcomed in principle. The net density being above the 35 dph is the result of the inclusion of more three storey flats than originally envisioned at the outline planning application stage. This is welcomed to make best use of the strategic site, whilst using the flats to add townscape to key corners and frontages.

Therefore, no planning applications of 100 dwellings or more were approved contrary to the LDP policy framework in 2021-22 with regards to density.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

3.65 The Plan's sustainable development strategy seeks to direct development to the most sustainable locations within the defined settlement boundaries of the urban area and Key Villages, and maximise the use of previously developed land.

Indicator 25 seeks to ensure that no greenfield land is lost contrary to the LDP policy framework.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 19 ,20		
<b>Key policies:</b>	SD 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
		<b>Adoption:</b>	SD 2 adopted in the Plan

<b>25. Local Indicator: Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the Plan (Ha).</b>	No greenfield land lost contrary to the policy framework	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning consents were granted for the development of 100+ homes on greenfield land contrary to the policy framework in 2019-20.	Planning permission granted for development resulting in the loss of greenfield land contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning consents were granted for the development of 100+ homes on greenfield land contrary to the policy framework in 2020-21.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning consents were granted for the development of 100+ homes on greenfield land contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No planning consents were granted for the development of 100+ homes on greenfield land contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

3.66 Indicators 23 and 26 bring together the analysis of individual SDAs detailed in the earlier section on these strategic sites to monitor the provision of community facilities and infrastructure, and delivery of the placemaking principles on SDAs in accordance with the Site Masterplans and policies.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 19 ,20		
<b>Key policies:</b>	SD 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD policies</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>23. Local Indicator: SDAs to be delivered in accordance with the Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan.</b>	All SDAs to be delivered in accordance with Placemaking principles set out in Policy SD 2 and the site policy and masterplan, unless exceptions are justified by evidence.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Sites adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Progress has been monitored for each SDA individually in the tables for indicators 2 and 3 and 27-69 above. It has been demonstrated that the sites are progressing in-line with the site masterplans and policies.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>17, 19 ,20</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>SD 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>SD policies</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>26. Local Indicator: Provision of community facilities and infrastructure on SDAs in accordance with the Site Masterplan and Policy.</b>	All development on SDAs to be supported by community facilities and infrastructure. Link to phasing – community facility and/or infrastructure to be delivered at agreed phasing stage.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Sites adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Sites being progressed in-line with the Site Masterplans and policies in 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Progress has been monitored for each SDA individually in the tables for indicators 2 and 3 and 27-69 above. It has been demonstrated that the sites are progressing in-line with the site masterplans and policies.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Policy RC 1: Swansea Central Area Regeneration

3.67 This section provides an analysis of the monitoring indicators for the plan's policies on regeneration of the Swansea Central Area.

## New Development in the Central Area

3.68 Indicator 17 monitors the development of new retail, office, residential, student accommodation, education facilities and visitor attractions in the Swansea Central Area during 2021-22.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	2, 10, 12, 13, 16			
<b>Key policies:</b>	Policy RC 1	<b>Related policies:</b>		RC 2-12
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>17. Local Indicator:</b> <b>The amount and type of new development built within the Swansea Central Area:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retail</li> <li>• Office</li> <li>• Residential</li> <li>• Student accommodation</li> <li>• Education facilities</li> <li>• Visitor attractions / facilities</li> </ul>	A net increase in the amount of quality office space, city living, student accommodation, education facilities and a wider range of visitor attractions and facilities.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan	A net decrease is recorded for 2 consecutive years.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Several significant schemes completed and others under construction.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Several schemes completed and other significant schemes under construction.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Several schemes completed and other significant schemes under construction.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
The indicator focuses on new development rather than changes of use. Key developments are reviewed below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Retail</b> - The outline planning consent for Swansea Central comprises a minimum of 15,950 sq m and maximum of 36,150 sq m of A1/A2/A3 uses with Phase 1 under construction including new units on Cupid Way while the Café was completed in the marina park in 2021-22. Mariner Street several commercial units completed in 2021-22. Refurbishment of 12-14 College Street ground floor units is</li> </ul>				

ongoing. Development in the pipeline includes refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall to Performance Venue (D2), Cafe Bar (A3) and Food Court (A3).

- **Office** - The outline planning consent for Swansea Central comprises a minimum of 1,900 sq m and maximum of 24,800 sq m of B1 / D1 uses. Development has commenced of the Phase 1 scheme. Office schemes in the pipeline or under construction include a state-of-the-art office development at the former Oceana nightclub site at 71-72 The Kingsway, development at Picton Yard 242-246 Oxford Street, change of use of the upper floors to offices at 85 The Kingsway; conversion of 18-20 Princess Way for 3 storeys of B1 space, refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall including office space, creation of a Community Hub at 277-278 Oxford Street providing library, archives, cafe, community services, staff office and flexible co-working space.
- **Residential** - 41 new homes were completed in the SD J area in 2021-22. Development has continued on other schemes with significant developments in the pipeline including the Swansea Central Scheme Phase 1 which is close to completion and will include 33 apartments, and Biophilic Living Picton Yard is under construction comprising 50 units.
- **Student accommodation** – Mariner Street 780 bedspaces completed. Construction has commenced on Ty Nant 180 High Street - 370 Bedspaces.
- **Education facilities** – no development.
- **Visitor attractions and facilities** - The outline planning consent for Swansea Central comprises a minimum of 11,275 sq m and maximum of 13,500 sq m of D2 cinema and arena uses; and 11,300 sq m hotel C1 use. Development has been completed of the arena and adjacent park in 2021-22. Development in the pipeline includes refurbishment and conversion of Albert Hall to a Performance Venue (D2).

Several schemes completed and significant projects under construction showing that good progress is being made particularly with the key regeneration projects. No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### **Vacancy Rates in the City Centre Retail Centre, District Centres and Local Centres**

locations for locating new retail, leisure and supporting commercial development.

3.69 Policy RC 2 of the Plan promotes the Plan's defined Centres, as the most appropriate and sustainable

3.70 As a measure of the viability and vitality of these retail centres in Swansea, indicator 18 monitors the

percentage of ground floor vacant retail units within these Centres.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>2, 10, 12, 13, 16</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Policy RC 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>RC 2-6</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>18. Local Indicator: % of ground floor vacant retail units in the City Centre, District and Local Centres.</b>	To maintain the viability and vitality of City, district and local centres	<b>Adoption:</b>	City Centre Retail Centre- vacancy rate = 13.7% (April 2019)
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No surveys possible due to COVID 19 restrictions.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No surveys undertaken in April 2021 due to COVID 19 restrictions.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	See table below
<b>Analysis:</b>			

No surveys were undertaken in 2019-20 and 2020-21 due to continuing COVID 19 restrictions. For example, as of the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, non-essential retail premises and also cafes, pubs and restaurants remained closed. Some surveys have been possible in 2021-22 and information from these is included in the table below, which shows the percentage of all ground floor units that were vacant at the survey date and will serve as a useful baseline for monitoring in future years.

<b>District/Local Centre</b>	<b>Name of Centre</b>	<b>Date of Survey</b>	<b>% of Ground Floor Vacant Units</b>
City Centre Retail Centre (Primary and Secondary Areas figure)	Swansea City Centre	April 2022	15.1%
District Centre (RC5)	Clydach	July 2021	9%
District Centre (RC5)	Gorseinon	July 2021	7.9%
District Centre (RC5)	Gowerton	July 2021	8.6%
District Centre (RC5)	Killay	July 2021	4.1%
District Centre (RC5)	Morrison	August 2021	15.9%
District Centre (RC5)	Mumbles	June 2018	13.5%



District Centre (RC5)	Pontarddulais	July 2021	18.6%
District Centre (RC5)	Sketty	July 2021	4.7%
District Centre (RC5)	Uplands	July 2021	8.2%
Local Centre (RC6)	Blaenymaes	July 2021	16.7%
Local Centre (RC6)	Brynhyfryd	July 2021	17.6%
Local Centre (RC6)	Brynymor	July 2021	2.5%
Local Centre (RC6)	Clase	July 2021	37.5%
Local Centre (RC6)	Fforestfach	July 2021	14.4%
Local Centre (RC6)	Hafod	August 2021	4.8%
Local Centre (RC6)	Kittle	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Maritime Quarter	March 2019	12.1%
Local Centre (RC6)	Mayhill (Gors Avenue)	July 2021	40%
Local Centre (RC6)	Mayhill (Mayhill Road)	July 2021	16.7
Local Centre (RC6)	Murton	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Penlan (Conway Road)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Penlan (Cwrys Terrace)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Penclawdd	July 2021	7.7%
Local Centre (RC6)	Port Tennant	July 2021	20%
Local Centre (RC6)	Ravenhill	July 2021	6.3%
Local Centre (RC6)	Sandfields/Brunswick	September 2020	18.8%
Local Centre (RC6)	Sketty (Sketty Park Drive)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Townhill (Graiglwydd Square)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Townhill (Penygraig Road)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Trallwn	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Tycoch	July 2021	9.1%
Local Centre (RC6)	West Cross (Alderwood Road)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	West Cross (West Cross Lane)	July 2021	0%
Local Centre (RC6)	Winch Wen	June 2016	22.2%
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Policy H 2: Affordable Housing Strategy

3.71 This section analyses indicators relating to affordable housing delivery.

3.72 Indicator 6ai below considers the number of additional affordable homes built. Further indicators are then set out with regard to affordable housing delivery.

LDP Objective(s):	1, 9, 14, 17																															
Key policies:	H 2	Related policies:		H 3 – H 6																												
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:	Trigger point:																													
<b>6ai Key Indicator: Number of net additional affordable dwellings built in the County (through the planning system) minus demolitions.</b>	Build 3,310 affordable dwellings in total by 2025. (690 built to 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017). Cumulative completion targets for remainder of Plan period (2017-18-2025).	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan.																													
		<b>AMR No. 1: AMR No. 2: AMR No. 3:</b>	Cumulative affordable housing completions through planning system (completions during each year in brackets):	The overall number of additional affordable housing built within the Plan area is 10% or more below the cumulative requirement set in the Policy Target for 2 consecutive years																												
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">2017/18</td><td style="text-align: right;">250</td></tr> <tr><td>2018/19</td><td style="text-align: right;">545</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20</td><td style="text-align: right;">840</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21</td><td style="text-align: right;">1135</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22</td><td style="text-align: right;">1430</td></tr> <tr><td>2022/23</td><td style="text-align: right;">1725</td></tr> <tr><td>2023/24</td><td style="text-align: right;">2020</td></tr> <tr><td>2024/25</td><td style="text-align: right;">2315</td></tr> <tr><td>2025</td><td style="text-align: right;">2620</td></tr> </table>	2017/18	250	2018/19	545	2019/20	840	2020/21	1135	2021/22	1430	2022/23	1725	2023/24	2020	2024/25	2315	2025	2620		<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 60%;">2017/18</td><td style="text-align: right;">145</td></tr> <tr><td>2018/19</td><td style="text-align: right;">360 (215)</td></tr> <tr><td>2019/20</td><td style="text-align: right;">559 (199)</td></tr> <tr><td>2020/21</td><td style="text-align: right;">768 (209)</td></tr> <tr><td>2021/22</td><td style="text-align: right;">917 (149)</td></tr> </table>	2017/18	145	2018/19	360 (215)	2019/20	559 (199)	2020/21	768 (209)	2021/22	917 (149)	
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2021/22	917 (149)																															

**Analysis:**

149 affordable homes were built through the planning system in 2021-22. The number of additional affordable homes has been below the requirement for a third consecutive year following adoption of the LDP and its affordable housing policies and allocations.

Affordable housing completions are anticipated to increase from 2021-22 onwards on H 5 allocations (H5. 4 was consented in 2019-20 and is likely to be largely built in 2022-23, a planning application for H5. 6 has been approved by the LPA, and pre planning application work is being undertaken on two other H5 sites). The Council is also moving forward with its More Homes Council housebuilding programme. A number of RSL affordable housing schemes with planning consent will move forward in 2021-22.

Nonetheless, delivery is under the level required to meet the LDP affordable housing targets. The statutory 4 year Plan review, which has been identified as being needed earlier in this report, will provide the opportunity to update the evidence base with regard to affordable housing need, viability of policy targets, and identification of sites that can make a contribution to fulfilling the updated housing need target.

**Action:**

**Issues to be addressed as part of the 4 year statutory plan review that is now required**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>																																										
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 3 – H 6</b>																																								
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>																																								
<b>6a ii Key Indicator: Tenure of affordable housing completions built through the planning system.</b>	Consideration of need should have regard to the latest LHMA, which should be used as a starting point for evidence of affordable housing need at a County wide level, alongside relevant local information such as the latest Council and RSL waiting lists and any recently delivered affordable housing units within the area.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan.																																								
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b> <b>AMR No. 2:</b> <b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Affordable housing (AH) completions per year by tenure:																																								
			<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>All AH</th> <th>Inter-mediate</th> <th>Social rent</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>145</td> <td>8</td> <td>137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>215</td> <td>14</td> <td>201</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>199</td> <td>51</td> <td>148</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>209</td> <td>29</td> <td>180</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>149</td> <td>36</td> <td>113</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023/24</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2024/25</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2025</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	All AH	Inter-mediate	Social rent	2017/18	145	8	137	2018/19	215	14	201	2019/20	199	51	148	2020/21	209	29	180	2021/22	149	36	113	2022/23				2023/24				2024/25				2025			
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<b>Analysis:</b>																																											
<p>This indicator has been added to the LDP monitoring framework in-line with the new WG guidance in the DPM.</p> <p>149 affordable homes were built through the planning system in 2021-22, 113 (76%) social rented and 36 (24%) intermediate tenure.</p> <p>The DPM requires that the indicator should monitor the tenure split (social rented and intermediate) in line with need identified in the LHMA.</p>																																											

The LHMA which informed the LDP identifies an affordable housing requirement of 7,400 dwellings across the County, and indicates an average tenure split of 5,300 social rented and 2,100 intermediate properties at the County level.

The tenure split of completions in 2021-22 is close to the LHMA split. It should be noted that each SHPZ has a different level of need, including variations in the tenure split. The LDP notes that the consideration of need should have regard to the latest LHMA, which should be used as a starting point for evidence of affordable housing need at a County wide level, alongside relevant local information such as the latest Council and Registered Social Landlord (RSL) waiting lists and any recently delivered affordable housing units within the area.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>													
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 2 – H 6</b>											
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>										
<b>78. Key Indicator: Average % of affordable housing secured as a proportion of total number of housing units permitted on private developments of 5 or more units in each sub-market area.</b>	% of affordable housing as a proportion of all housing units secured annually on private developments of 5 or more units to be in accordance with sub-market targets	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan.	% of affordable housing secured as a proportion of total housing units permitted in private developments of 5 or more units within any sub-market area falls below the target contributions set out in Policy H 3 for two consecutive years.										
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	All in accordance with LDP policy framework											
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	All in accordance with LDP policy framework											
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	All in accordance with LDP policy framework											
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>SHPZ</b></th> <th><b>% TARGET</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Swansea West</td> <td>35%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater North West</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Central</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East North</td> <td>10%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>SHPZ</b>	<b>% TARGET</b>	Swansea West	35%	Greater North West	15%	Central	20%	East North	10%			
<b>SHPZ</b>	<b>% TARGET</b>													
Swansea West	35%													
Greater North West	15%													
Central	20%													
East North	10%													

<b>Analysis:</b>				
The provision of affordable housing on sites with planning consents securing affordable homes in 2021-22 has been reviewed. All decisions were in-line with the LDP policy framework. The majority of the sites exceeded the policy target as they are RSL or Council developments (the S106 agreement secures the minimum policy target amount).				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 5</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>H 2</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>79 Local Indicator: The number of planning permissions implemented on allocated H 5 local needs housing exception sites.</b>	All H 5 sites to be developed within the lifetime of the Plan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.	
	50% of H 5 sites built within 2 years of Plan adoption	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Two H 5 sites have full planning consent and are under construction. Planning permission has therefore been implemented.	
	All H 5 properties to be occupied by persons with local connection (as defined in Policy H 5).	<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Confirmation has been received that all H 5 properties occupied to date have been by people with the defined local connection.  Two H 5 sites have full planning consent and are under construction with one of these sites nearly completed. Planning permission has therefore been implemented.	
			No permissions implemented within the first 2 years post plan adoption.  Less than 75% of sales achieved to persons with a local connection	

			Confirmation has been received that Percentages in excess of the 75% trigger on the 2 sites under construction have been occupied/reserved by people with the defined local connection.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Three H 5 sites have full planning consent with one under construction and one of these sites fully completed. Planning permission has therefore been implemented.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<b>Planning and Construction Status of the Sites</b>				
To monitor the implementation of planning consents on the H 5 sites, their planning and construction status is set out below, as of April 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022.				
<b>Planning and construction status of sites allocated under Policy H 5</b>				
<b>Site Ref and Location</b>	<b>Planning status</b>	<b>Construction status</b>		
H 5.1: Land at Monksland Road, Scurlage	Pre planning application			
H 5.2: Land to the east of Gowerton Road, Three Crosses	No planning application			
H 5.3: Land adjoining Tirmynydd Road, Three Crosses	Pre planning application			
H 5.4: Land adjoining Pennard Drive, Pennard	Planning permission granted ref 2018/2580/FUL	Construction has commenced – see Appendix 1		
H 5.5: Land at Summerland Lane, Newton	Planning permission granted ref 2017/1948/FUL	Development completed – see Appendix 1		

H 5.6: Land at Higher Lane, Langland	Planning application granted ref 2018/2634/FUL	
<p>Of the six allocated H 5 sites, three have received full planning consent with construction continuing on one site and one development fully completed. Build progress is detailed in appendix 1. All 61 units at Summerland Lane have been completed, while 44 units at the Pennard site have been built. Therefore, construction has been completed on 47% of the total units anticipated to be delivered across the 6 sites and 60% of the total sites' capacity are at least under construction. Furthermore, a planning consent has been granted by the LPA for Land at Higher Lane, Langland.</p>		
<p>Therefore, with regard to the trigger identified in the indicator, 2 permissions have been implemented within the first 2 years of the Plan's adoption. While the target of 50% of H 5 sites to be built within 2 years of Plan adoption has not yet been achieved, good progress is being made and the trigger of no permissions being implemented within the first 2 years post plan adoption has been avoided. Therefore, no action is required at this stage other than to continue to engage with developers to bring forward the remaining sites and monitor progress.</p>		
<p>The Pennard site recorded sales during the monitoring year and the developer has confirmed that 91% of the market and intermediate units reserved since those reported on in AMR 2 were to "persons with a local connection" (and this single sale took place after well over 16 weeks of marketing in-line with the LDP) which is in excess of the trigger identified in the monitoring indicator, therefore no further action is required other than to continue monitoring.</p>		
<b>Action:</b>		
<p><b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b></p>		



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 9, 14, 17		
<b>Key policies:</b>	H 6	<b>Related policies:</b>	H 2
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>80. Local Indicator: The number of planning applications permitted for affordable housing exceptions sites</b>	None included in the LDP	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	1 planning application permitted for affordable housing exceptions sites in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications permitted for affordable housing exceptions sites in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	1 planning application permitted for affordable housing exceptions sites in 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>			
1 planning application permitted for affordable housing exceptions sites in 2021-22: planning application 2020/2357/FUL, Pencefnarda Farm, Pencefnarda Road, Gorseinon, for 44 social rented units.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 3 - 6</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>81. Key Indicator: Changes in house prices across the SHPZs which affects the affordability of housing and developers' build costs</b>	The delivery of the maximum level of affordable housing that is viable.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Increases in house prices in most SHPZs but not considered sufficient justification to review the LDP affordable housing provision targets
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Increases in house prices in most SHPZs but not considered sufficient justification to review the LDP affordable housing provision targets
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Increases in house prices in most SHPZs. Build costs also rising.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p><b>House Prices</b></p> <p>The latest ONS/Land Registry average house price data for Swansea Wards has been aggregated to SHPZs. It should be noted that, due to publication time lags, the latest annual data available from ONS for financial year periods is for the 12 month period ending March 2021. All SHPZ showed an increase in house prices paid between 2020-21, with the greatest increases in the Gower (+£69,373), following a decrease in the previous 12 month period of -£36,637. The Gower Fringe also so a big increase (+£37,810). Three Zones showed an increase above 10% in 2020- against the base date of the Plan (2010) with the Gower increasing by 22%, the Gower Fringe by 17% and the North by 15%. The rest of the Zones increased between 2% and 9%.</p>			

SHPZ	Mean price paid					Number of recorded sales		
	Y/e Mar 2010	Y/e Mar 2020	Y/e Mar 2021	2020-21 change	Change 2019-20 against Plan base date (2010)	Y/e Mar 2010	Y/e Mar 2020	Y/e Mar 2021
<b>GNW</b>	£137,518	£174,071	£177,319	£3,248	2.36%	473	676	424
<b>North</b>	£105,805	£125,861	£141,352	£15,491	14.64%	439	641	459
<b>East</b>	£130,328	£148,735	£153,192	£4,457	3.42%	553	546	348
<b>West</b>	£222,267	£274,105	£282,117	£8,012	3.60%	543	654	554
<b>Central</b>	£142,913	£138,745	£150,993	£12,249	8.57%	559	510	356
<b>Gower Fringe</b>	£225,442	£276,255	£314,065	£37,810	16.77%	159	207	171
<b>Gower</b>	£320,569	£352,063	£421,436	£69,373	21.64%	36	41	44

Source: House Price Statistics for Small Areas (HPSSAs) release, ONS. © Crown copyright 2021

### Build Costs

It is not currently possible to monitor build costs at SHPZ due to the limited sample sizes and quality of data available. Nonetheless, the LPA is aware of the increased pressure on build costs in the current economic climate. More research is needed to establish a sound evidence base.

The above shows that house prices have risen as of the base date of this AMR. The LPA is aware of the increased pressure on build costs in the current economic climate. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review all aspects of development viability to inform the evidence base of the future LDP.

### Action:

**Further research required**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 3</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>H 4 - 5</b>
<b>82. Local Indicator: Number of planning permissions or subsequent variation/removal of planning conditions, approvals of discharge/modification under 106A or by Deed of Variation, relating to housing developments of 5 units or more, where the contribution permitted is lower than the relevant target set under Policy H 3.</b>	No reduction in or removal of the target contributions permitted, unless in accordance with the provision made within Policy H 3 for reduction/removal of this requirement	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning consents where the contribution permitted is lower than the relevant target set under Policy H 3
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning consents where the contribution permitted is lower than the relevant target set under Policy H 3
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning consents where the contribution permitted is lower than the relevant target set under Policy H 3
<b>Trigger point:</b>	1 or more housing developments permitted, or subsequent variation / removal of planning conditions, approvals for discharge / modification under Section 106A or by Deed of Variation, relating to housing developments or 5 units or, more, where the contribution permitted in lower than the relevant target set under Policy H 3 not in accordance with Policy H 3 in any one year.		
<b>Analysis:</b>	There were no planning consents contrary to the LDP policy framework - see indicator 78.		

<b>Action:</b>	
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>	

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 3 H 4</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 2 H 5-6</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>83. Local Indicator: Number of affordable housing contributions (units or equivalent) secured through planning on-site, off-site and via commuted sums.</b>	For the majority of affordable housing contributions secured through planning permission to be provided on-site.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	840 units secured in 2019-20 through planning consents.  All on-site  None off site  No commuted sums
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	273 units secured in 2020-21 through planning consents.  All on-site  None off site  1 further planning application involved payment of a commuted sum
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	254 units secured in 2021-22 through planning consents.
			The total number of affordable housing contributions secured through planning permissions off-site and via commuted sums exceeds the total number of affordable housing contributions (units) secured on-site in any one year.

			<p>All on-site</p> <p>None off site</p> <p>1 further planning application involved payment of a commuted sum</p>	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>From the sites with planning consents securing affordable homes (also reviewed under indicator 78), there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 254 affordable housing units secured in 2021-22 through planning consents.</li> <li>• All of the above were on-site.</li> <li>• 1 further planning application involved payment of a commuted sum covering the additional fraction of a unit in addition to the onsite units provided in order to achieve the policy target percentage.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, the total number of affordable housing contributions secured through planning permissions off-site and via commuted sums does not exceed the total number of affordable housing contributions (units) secured on-site in 2021-22.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 9, 14, 17</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>H 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>H 3- H 6</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>84. Local Indicator: Number of Social Rented and Intermediate Housing units secured as a % of all affordable housing units secured through planning permissions.</b>	To ensure that residential developments deliver affordable housing having regard to the evidence of housing need in the most recent Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA), in association with RSL waiting lists and other relevant information available at the time and in the context of financial viability .	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	% intermediate and social rent have been secured having regard to the most recent LHMA, and the latest local information provided by the Housing Enabling Team, in-line with the LDP policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	% intermediate and social rent have been secured having regard to the most recent LHMA, and the latest local information provided by the Housing Enabling Team, in-line with the LDP policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	% intermediate and social rent have been secured having regard to the most recent LHMA, and the latest local information provided by the Housing Enabling Team, in-line with the LDP policy framework
<b>Analysis:</b>			
The provision of affordable housing on sites with planning consents securing affordable homes in 2021-22 has been reviewed. All were in-line with the LDP policy framework. There are a number of sites exceeding the policy target as they are RSL developments (the S106 agreement secures the minimum policy amount).			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

**Policy IO 1: Supporting Infrastructure and Planning Obligations**

3.73 Strategic Policy IO 1 states that development must be supported by appropriate infrastructure, facilities and other requirements considered necessary as part of the proposal. Where necessary, planning obligations will be sought to ensure that the effects of developments are fully addressed in order to make the development acceptable, which will include

addressing any identified deficiencies in provision or capacity directly related to the proposal.

3.74 Policy SI 2 supports the provision of new community facilities in convenient and accessible locations; and safeguards community facilities of local value in recognition of the important function they play in a locality.

3.75 Indicator 85 monitors community facilities with the aim of avoiding the loss of community facilities of value.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 3		
<b>Key policies:</b>	IO 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>SI 2</b>
<b>85: Local Indicator: The net change, type and spatial distribution of community facilities.</b>	No loss of community facilities, contrary to policy framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No loss of community facilities, contrary to policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No loss of community facilities, contrary to policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No loss of community facilities, contrary to policy framework
<b>Trigger point:</b>	Loss of community facilities as recorded over a 2 year period.		
<b>Analysis:</b>	The indicator target is for there to be no loss of community facilities contrary to the LDP policy framework, which under Policy SI 2 seeks to protect community facilities of local value. The planning applications resulting in a loss of community facilities have been examined further. The planning consents are not considered to be contrary to the policy framework.		
<b>Action:</b>	No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.		



3.76 Indicator 86 monitors the number of residential planning permissions generating Section 106 financial contributions and the average value of these contributions.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 3</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>IO 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>86 Local Indicator: The number of residential permissions generating financial contributions in S106 agreements.</b>  <b>Of those, the average per unit value of contributions (including financial equivalent of any obligation secured).</b>	To ensure that the appropriate infrastructure measures come forward as part of planning applications	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	7 residential permissions generating financial contributions in S106 agreements.  The average per unit financial contribution from non-strategic residential sites was £1,276.50.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	4 residential permissions generating financial contributions in S106 agreements.  The average per unit financial contribution from non-strategic residential sites was £3,722.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	6 residential permissions generating financial contributions in S106 agreements.
			The per unit value of all S106 contributions achieved on residential permissions is significantly greater or less than a £5,000 benchmark figure.

			The average per unit financial contribution from non-strategic residential sites was £1,052.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>The £5,000 benchmark mentioned in the indicator trigger reflects the assumption for Section 106 costs used in the high level affordable housing viability modelling undertaken by Andrew Golland Associates (AGA) to inform the LDP affordable housing targets. Site specific S106 assumptions and affordable housing contributions were derived for the SDAs which each had their own separate site specific Viability Assessments. Therefore the £5,000 figure does not apply to the SDAs. This indicator has also not included financial contributions towards Affordable Housing because the £5,000 figure relates to other non affordable housing Section 106 costs. This could usefully be clarified in the indicator description when the LDP is reviewed.</p> <p>Considering only non-strategic sites, there were 6 residential site permissions granted during 2021-22 which generated financial contributions in S106 Agreements. The average per unit value of contributions has been reviewed. The average per unit financial contribution from non-strategic residential sites in 2021-22 was £1,052, which is well below the £5,000 per unit cost included in the high level affordable housing viability modelling. This is in-line with evidence the Council submitted to the LDP Examination which demonstrated that the £5,000 figure used by AGA was a high-end estimate which provided significant headroom based on the reality of S106 costs that have applied to development in Swansea.</p> <p>Other indicators have highlighted the need for a statutory 4 year Plan review, which will provide the opportunity to review all aspects of development viability to inform the evidence base of the future LDP.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Further research required</b>				

## ***Policy HC 1: Historic and Cultural Environment***

3.77 Strategic Policy HC 1 states that the County's distinctive historic and cultural environment will be preserved or enhanced. Indicators regarding this policy are shown below.

### **Development in the Welsh Language Sensitive Area**

3.78 Policy HC 3 aims to safeguard and promote the Welsh language. It states that within the Welsh Language Sensitive Area (WLSA), which is identified on the LDP Proposals Map, the Council may subject the following developments on windfall sites to a Welsh Language Impact Assessment:

- i. Residential development for 10 or more dwellings; and
- ii. Retail, commercial or industrial development with a total floorspace of 1000 sq. m or more.

3.79 Planning applications for the above scale and type of developments on allocated sites within the WLSA will be required to submit a Welsh Language Action Plan. Indicator 88 monitors the number of planning applications permitted in the WLSA accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan, and aims to ensure that no applications are permitted within the WLSA without addressing measures to safeguard and encourage the use of the Welsh language in the community.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 18, 23, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	HC 1, HC 3	<b>Related policies:</b>	H 1, SD 1
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>88. Local Indicator: The number of applications permitted in the WLSA accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan.</b>	No applications permitted within the WLSA without addressing measures to safeguard and encourage the use of the Welsh language in the community.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	3 planning applications on allocated sites in the WLSA were consented in 2019-20. All were accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan setting out the measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	1 relevant planning consent on allocated sites within the WLSA in 2020-21. This was accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan setting out the measures to be taken to protect, promote and enhance the Welsh language.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	2 relevant planning consents on allocated sites within the WLSA in 2021-22. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
This indicator monitors the number of planning applications permitted in the WLSA that were accompanied by a Welsh Language Action Plan. It should be noted that Welsh Language Action Plans are required by Policy HC 3 to be submitted with planning applications on			

allocated sites in the WLSA for residential development of 10+ units or retail, commercial or industrial development of 1,000+ sq m floorspace. This could usefully be clarified in the indicator description when the LDP is reviewed.

A review has been undertaken and there were 2 relevant planning consent on allocated sites within the WLSA in 2021-22. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### Historic and Cultural Environment

3.80 LDP policy HC 2 aims to preserve and enhance the County's buildings and features of historic importance. Indicators 89 and 90 monitor this element of the Policy framework.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 18, 23, 24</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>HC 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>HC 2</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>89. Local Indicator: The number of applications permitted that will adversely affect Scheduled Ancient Monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, listed buildings and conservations areas.</b>	No developments permitted over the course of the Plan when there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan	Further investigation if 1 (or more) planning permissions are given where there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors over any year.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	1 application consented with an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors. The decision report set out the planning reasons for the decision which were justified in-line with the policy framework.	

		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	During 2020-21 there were no planning applications permitted where an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors remained.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	During 2021-22 there were no planning applications permitted where an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors remained.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
During 2021-22 there were no planning application permitted where an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors remained.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 18, 23, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	HC 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	HC 2
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>90: The number of applications permitted that will adversely affect an Archaeological Sensitive Area (ASA).</b>	No developments permitted over the course of the Plan when there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	9 applications consented in an ASA in 2019-20 had an objection, all were similar applications for replacement windows in the Maritime Quarter. The decision
			Further investigation if 1 (or more) planning permissions are given where there is an outstanding

			reports set out the planning reasons for the decisions which were justified in-line with the policy framework	objection from statutory heritage advisors over any year.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications permitted in 2020-21 where there was an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

### ***Policy ER 2: Strategic Green Infrastructure Network***

3.81 Green Infrastructure (GI) is the network of multifunctional green and blue spaces, corridors and environmental features which surround, thread through, shape and help form settlements and the wider countryside. Strategic Policy ER 2 sets out that GI will be provided through the protection and enhancement of existing green spaces that afford valuable ecosystem services. Development that

compromises the integrity of such green spaces, and therefore that of the overall GI network, will not be permitted. Development will be required to take opportunities to maintain and enhance the extent, quality and connectivity of the County's multi-functional GI network, and where appropriate: create new interconnected areas of GI, between the proposed site and the existing strategic network; fill gaps in the existing network to improve connectivity; and in instances where loss of GI is unavoidable, provide mitigation and compensation for the lost assets.

**International, National and Regional Designated Sites**

3.82 Policy ER 6 states that Development will not be permitted that would result in a likely significant adverse effect on the integrity of sites of international

or national nature conservation importance, except in the circumstances specified in relevant legislation. All designated sites are shown on the LDP Constraints and Issues Map. Indicator 70 seeks to monitor the implementation of this policy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 19, 20, 21, 24</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>ER 6</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>ER 1, 3, 8 and 9</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	
<b>70. Local Indicator: The number of applications permitted on internationally, nationally and regionally designated sites, important for biodiversity, contrary to the policy framework.</b>	No net loss in biodiversity	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning permission granted contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning permission granted contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning permission granted contrary to the policy framework
<b>Trigger point:</b>			
A single permission contrary to the policy framework			
<b>Analysis:</b>			
No planning applications were permitted contrary to the LDP policy framework on designated sites of international, national or regional ecological importance.			
<b>Action:</b>			
No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.			



### Regionally Designated Geodiversity Sites

3.83 Policy ER 10 states that development will not be permitted that would cause significant adverse effect on geological or geomorphological SSSIs. Development that would affect Regionally Important Geological or Geomorphological sites (RIGs) should maintain the geological or geomorphological interests

of the site. Designated geological and geomorphological SSSIs are nationally important rocks, earth forms or features. The regionally important geological or geomorphological sites (RIGs) define the most important places for geology and geomorphology that are not nationally designated. Indicator 71 seeks to monitor the implementation of this policy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 19, 20, 21, 24</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>ER 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>ER 10</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>71 Local Indicator: The number of applications permitted on regionally designated geodiversity sites.</b>	No loss of important geodiversity in designated sites.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan	A single permission contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	1 planning consent on or in close proximity to designated RIGS. This decision was in-line with the policy framework	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	2 planning consents on or in close proximity to designated RIGS. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	9 planning consents in close proximity to designated RIGS. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework	

**Analysis:**

9 planning consents for the renewal of temporary permission relating to camping rallies in close proximity to a designated geodiversity site, all relating to the same address. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

**Gower AONB and Special Landscape Areas**

3.84 Policy ER 4 Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) states that within the AONB, development must have regard to the purpose of the designation to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area. Policy ER 5 Landscape Protection

states that development will not be permitted that would have a significant adverse effect on the character and quality of the landscape of the County and that priority will be given to protecting, enhancing and managing the character and quality of the four Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) shown on the Proposals Map. Indicator 72 monitors the implementation of these policies.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 19, 20, 21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	ER 4, ER 5
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>72. Local Indicator: The number of planning applications permitted within the AONB and Special Landscape Areas contrary to the policy framework.</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22
			One planning application permitted contrary to the policy framework.

<b>Analysis:</b>				
An analysis has been undertaken of the planning applications permitted for development in the AONB and SLAs. There were no planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

## Green Wedges

3.85 A total of eight Green Wedges are allocated in the Plan by Policy ER 3 Green Wedges. Within the designated Green Wedge areas development will only

be permitted if it maintains the openness and character of the land, unless the development is for acceptable purposes, as outlined in national policy relating to Green Wedge designations. Indicator 73 monitors the implementation of this policy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 19, 20, 21, 24			
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 2	<b>Related policies:</b>		ER 3
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>73. Local Indicator: Number of planning applications for development permitted in the Green Wedge.</b>	The openness of the Green Wedge to be safeguarded and protected.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	3 planning applications permitted on land designated as Green Wedge in 2019-20. Further investigation of these cases has shown that none would affect the openness of the green wedge contrary to the policy framework.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	1 planning application permitted on land designated as Green Wedge in 2020-21. Further investigation has shown this would not affect the	
			One planning application permitted in the Green Wedge contrary to the policy framework.	

			openness of the green wedge contrary to the policy framework.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	4 planning applications permitted on land designated as Green Wedge 2021-22. 3 would not affect the openness of the green wedge contrary to the policy framework. 1 planning permission granted as a justified departure to the policies of the plan due to exceptional circumstances which were considered to outweigh the impact on the Green Wedge	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>4 planning application permitted on land designated as a Green Wedge in 2021-22. However, this related to 2 householder applications for extension to the existing property, which would not affect the openness of the green wedge contrary to the policy framework. 1 application relates to a proposed surface water drainage system, the majority of which will be below ground and the ground around the attenuation tank will be landscaped to maintain the openness and character of the Green Wedge. 1 application is for the installation of electronic communication equipment, which is replacing an existing monopole. Although it is acknowledged that this will have a greater visual impact than the existing equipment, this impact was not considered to be significant or unacceptable.</p> <p>1 further planning application sought to make a previous temporary consent permanent. The decision recognised that the site is located within the Green Wedge, but it was determined after careful consideration, that in this particular instance there were very exceptional circumstances demonstrated to outweigh the harm to the green wedge to grant a permanent, personal planning permission as a justified departure to the development plan.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

## Undeveloped Coast

3.86 Policy ER 7 places priority on the protection and enhancement of the landscape, seascape, biodiversity and historic environment along the undeveloped coast. This is made up of the area of land and adjacent sea that are considered to be

mutually dependant. Excluded are the developed areas of established visitor and recreation destinations identified in Policy TR 2 Developed Coast and Waterfront.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 19, 20, 21, 24</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>ER 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>ER 7</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>74 Local Indicator: Number of planning applications for development permitted within the undeveloped coast contrary to the policy framework.</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Analysis of planning applications for development permitted within the undeveloped coast shows that none have been approved contrary to the policy framework.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Trees, Hedgerows and Development

3.87 Policy ER 11 sets out that development that would adversely affect trees, woodlands and hedgerows of public amenity or natural/cultural heritage value, or that provide important ecosystem services, will not normally be permitted. Ancient Woodland, Ancient

Woodland Sites, Ancient and Veteran Trees merit specific protection and development will not normally be permitted that would result in the impacts set out in the policy. Indicator 75 monitors the implementation of this policy.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 19, 20, 21, 24</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>ER 2</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>ER 11</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>75: Local Indicator: The number or amount of (Ha) of protected trees and woodland lost to development.</b>	No net loss of protected trees and woodland contrary to policy framework.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	In 2019, decisions were issued allowing the felling of a total of 89 protected trees.  Analysis of these cases shows that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively.	One planning application resulting in a net loss of protected trees and woodland.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	In the monitoring period, decisions were issued allowing the felling of a total of 100 protected trees.  Analysis of these cases shows that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively.	

		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	<p>In the monitoring period, decisions were issued allowing the felling of a total of 108 protected trees.</p> <p>Analysis of these cases shows that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively.</p>	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>Overall, decisions were issued allowing the felling of a total of at least 108 protected trees (108 specified plus an application approved to remove an unspecified number of trees). Applications to fell a further 31 trees were refused. All planning applications to fell protected trees were considered against the appropriate regulations and policy framework. Analysis of these cases shows that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**Open Space**

3.88 Policy SI 5 aims to protect existing open space provision unless specified criteria are met. Policy SI 6 sets out that new open space provision will be sought for all residential development proposals with capacity for 10 or more units.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 19, 20, 21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	SI 5, SI 6
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>76: Local Indicator: The number of applications permitted for housing development in areas of Open Space deficiency that do not contribute to remedying the deficiency.</b>	To ensure there is no deficiency of open space as a result of new development.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	9 planning applications consented in 2019-20 in FIT deficient areas and 6 in ANGS deficient areas. None of these planning applications were permitted contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	4 planning applications consented in 2020-21 in FIT deficient areas and 5 in ANGS deficient areas. None of these planning applications were permitted contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	7 planning applications consented in 2021-22 in FIT deficient areas and 8 in ANGS deficient areas. None of these planning applications were permitted contrary to the policy framework.
<b>Analysis:</b>	An analysis has been undertaken of the identified planning approvals in 2021-22 of housing developments that were within or close to areas of Open Space deficiency (defined as having insufficient access to either a Fields in Trust provision (FIT) or Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGS) facility within 300 metres). Overall it has been concluded that these planning applications were permitted in-line with the policy framework.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	1, 19, 20, 21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 2	<b>Related policies:</b>	SI 5, SI 6
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>77 Local Indicator: The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the Open Space Assessment</b>	To ensure there is no deficiency of open space as a result of new development.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning consents issued in 2019-20 on areas of open space were contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning consents issued in 2020-21 on areas of open space were contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning consents issued in 2021-22 on areas of open space were contrary to the policy framework
<b>Analysis:</b>	Eight planning approvals were granted in 2021-22 that impacted on Fields in Trust (FIT) or Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGS) provision as defined by Policy SI 5 and the Open Space Assessment (OSA). An analysis of these planning consents has shown that they were permitted in-line with the policy framework.		
<b>Action:</b>	No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.		

## ***Policy SI 1: Health and Well-being***

3.89 Strategic Policy SI 1 Health and Well-being aims to reduce health inequalities and encourage healthy lifestyles. This Policy reflects the direction in National Planning Policy and Guidance that health can be a material consideration in determining planning applications for new developments, and is increasingly recognised as an essential element of delivering sustainable development. Indicator 87 monitors the amount of active travel routes in the County.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>1, 21, 24</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>SI 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>T 2, T 7</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>87. Local Indicator: No loss in Active Travel routes</b>	% increase in Active Travel routes over the lifetime of the Plan.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	There has been a 6% increase of Active Travel routes in Swansea during 2019-20
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	There has been no loss in Active Travel routes in Swansea during 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	There has been no loss in Active Travel routes in Swansea during 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>			
There has been no loss in Active Travel routes in Swansea during 2021-22			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

### ***Policy TR 1: Tourism and Recreation Development***

- 3.90 Strategic policy TR 1, Tourism, Recreation and Leisure Development, sets out an overarching approach to encourage tourism, recreation and leisure proposals that can help bring about increased investment, wider opportunities for residents and visitors, and help enhance natural heritage settings.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>12, 15, 16, 18, 19</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>TR 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>TR 2 - 13</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>91: Local Indicator: To increase the number of visitor bed spaces in the County without having a detrimental impact on the natural environment</b>	No visitor accommodation proposals to be permitted contrary to the policy framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Planning consents resulted in an estimated total of 3,214 visitor bedspaces. None were granted contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Planning consents resulted in an estimated total of 3,070 visitor bedspaces. None were granted contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Planning consents resulted in an estimated total of 4,296 bedspaces. None were granted contrary to the policy framework.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>48 planning applications were received in 2021-22, of which 7 were refused. A further 3 applications seek to regularise existing developments and did not result in additional bedspaces. The consented applications resulted in 4,296 spaces. (seasonal camping/caravan permissions = 336 bedspaces; caravan rallies = 3,700 bedspaces; timber pods/lodges etc = 56 bedspaces; hotel/guesthouse etc = 204 bedspaces). Some 17 bedspaces were lost as a result of 2 applications consented to turn guesthouses into residential developments.</p> <p><i>Data notes - Planning applications have been reviewed to understand the number of bedspaces which will result from permissions, as opposed to bedrooms (assumed 1 bedroom = 2 bedspaces [one double bed]).</i></p>			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	12, 15, 16, 18, 19			
<b>Key policies:</b>	TR 1	<b>Related policies:</b>		TR 2 - 13
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>92. Local Indicator: To increase the range of visitor attractions throughout the County</b>	No visitor attractions permitted contrary to the policy framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	8 planning applications were permitted for visitor attractions in 2019-20. None were granted contrary to the policy framework.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	4 planning applications were permitted for visitor attractions in 2020-21. None were granted contrary to the policy framework	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	13 planning applications were permitted for visitor attractions in 2021-22. None were granted contrary to the policy framework.	
<b>Analysis:</b>	13 planning applications were permitted for visitor attractions in 2021-22. None were granted contrary to the policy framework.			
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>12, 15, 16, 18, 19</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>TR 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>TR 2 - 13</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>93. Local Indicator: To develop the City Centre and urban waterfront as a focal point for leisure and visitor use.</b>	Applications approved in accordance with the City Centre and Waterfront Regeneration Framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	2 planning applications approved for leisure/visitor use within SD J during 2019-20, both were in-line with the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	5 planning applications approved for leisure/visitor use within SD J during 2020-21. All were in-line with the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	10 applications approved for leisure/visitor use within SD J during 2021-22. All were in-line with the policy framework.
<b>Analysis:</b>	For the purposes of this indicator, the City Centre and Waterfront area referred to is defined as the Central Area and Waterfront Strategic Development Area (SD J) boundary. SD J incorporates the City Centre and associated waterfront and identifies significant opportunities for leisure and visitor development to support the attraction of the area as a destination of regional and national significance. For the avoidance of doubt, this indicator does not include other urban waterfront areas in Swansea, such as other areas outside of SD J along the River Tawe or around Swansea Bay. Following a review of planning consents in SDJ during 2021-22, 10 planning applications have been identified to be relevant to visitor and leisure use (D1/D2/relevant sui generic). A further 1 application was consented which resulted in the loss of a D2 use. The consents were in-line with the policy framework. Of interest, an additional 16 applications were consented for A3 use (food and drink), which also contribute to the leisure offer of the area.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Policy ER 1: Climate Change

3.91 A core function of the Plan is to ensure that all development in the County is sustainable, taking full account of the implications of reducing resource use and addressing climate change. Policy ER 1 provides a framework for sustainable growth by promoting development that mitigates the causes of climate change and which is able to adapt to its likely effects.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>6, 7, 17, 21, 24</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>ER 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>EU 1-3</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>94: Local Indicator: The number of planning applications for renewable energy and capacity permitted – electricity and heat.</b>	An increase in the permitted capacity of renewable energy (both electricity and heat) generated within the County from the Plan adoption date.  Delivery of up to 21.8 MW in Solar LSA up to 40.6 MW in Wind SSA over the Plan period	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policy adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No RE planning applications submitted for sites located in Solar LSA or Wind SSA.  However, there were other consents in 2019-20 therefore RE capacity increasing.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	1 RE submitted within a solar LSA. 1 RE submitted outside a LSA/SSA
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No full planning applications for RE developments within a solar LSA.
			No planning applications permitted for renewable energy by 2020.  No increase in capacity by 2020.

			<p>No full planning applications for a RE developments outside a LSA/SSA</p> <p>However, a number of solar panels on buildings were consented, as were air source heat pumps and a Greener Grid Energy Park, so therefore RE capacity is increasing throughout the County.</p>	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>In 2021-2022:</p> <p>No full planning applications submitted for RE developments within a solar LSA.</p> <p>No full planning applications submitted for a RE developments outside a LSA/SSA</p> <p>However, throughout the County there were 17 applications permitted for solar panels on buildings; 6 applications permitted for air source heat pumps on buildings and a Greener Grid Energy Park was permitted.</p> <p>So RE capacity is increasing throughout the County.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

3.92 Policy EU 3 sets out that Significant Energy Consuming Developments will be expected to facilitate the development of, and/or connection to,

proposed District Heating and Cooling Networks. Indicator 95 monitors planning consents issued for District Heating Networks in 2021-22.



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	6, 7, 17, 21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	EU 3
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>95: Local Indicator: Number of District Heating Networks permitted.</b>	1 District Heating Network to be permitted by 2020	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications have been submitted for District Heating Networks (either stand alone or as part of a proposed development).
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications have been submitted for District Heating Networks
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications have been submitted for District Heating Networks
<b>Analysis:</b>	No planning applications have been received for District Heating Networks, either stand alone or as part of a proposed development, in 2019-20, 2020-21 or 2021-22 and the target stated in the monitoring framework has not been achieved. However, increasing capacity is reliant on developers bringing forward proposals and is outside of the control of the LPA. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a 4 year statutory Plan review and further research will be required to inform the evidence base for the Replacement Plan on this subject.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>Further research required</b>			

- 3.93 To mitigate against the effects of climate change, Policy ER 1 states that development proposals should take into account reducing carbon emissions, protecting and increasing carbon sinks, and promoting energy and resource efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable and low carbon energy. Indicator 96 monitors carbon emissions in Swansea.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	6, 7, 17, 21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	ER 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	EU 2, EU 3
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>96: Contextual Indicator: Carbon emissions – total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita.</b>	No increase in carbon emissions per capita.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Latest available data is for 2018. 2018: Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of 4.4 (2022 data fig for 2018)) tonnes equivalent per capita (tCO <sub>2</sub> e). A decrease on the 2017 figure of 4.56 tonnes per capita.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Latest available data is for 2019. 2019: Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of 4.2 tonnes equivalent per capita (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) (a decrease from 4.3 tonnes in 2018 (revised)).
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Latest available data is for 2020. 2020: Estimated CO <sub>2</sub> emissions of 3.7 tonnes equivalent per capita (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) (a decrease from 4.2 tonnes per capita in 2019)
<b>Analysis:</b>			
The latest available data is for 2020 which shows 3.7 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions per capita for Swansea, a decrease on the previous two years. The calculation of CO <sub>2</sub> e (equivalent) includes carbon dioxide and all other greenhouse gases, such as methane and is a standard unit for counting greenhouse gas emissions regardless of what which gas they are from.			

Therefore no increase has been identified in carbon emissions per capita for Swansea. In comparison, emissions for Wales were also estimated to have decreased from 7.6 tonnes per capita in 2018 to 6.6 in 2020.

*n.b.* The indicator needs to be revised to reflect CO2e calculations, not just CO2.

*Data notes: Latest data available is for 2020. Source: UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions national statistics 2005-2020. Published by National Statistics 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. This dataset replaces the 2019 dataset reported in AMR1 and has slightly different data figures.*

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### ***Policy T 1: Transport Measures and Infrastructure***

3.94 The LDP sets out an overarching approach to ensure development is supported by appropriate transport measures and infrastructure, including highways, public transport, pedestrian and cycle measures.

### **Delivery of Priority Transport Measures**

3.95 The LDP, in Appendix 5, sets out a schedule of priority highway infrastructure measures to be implemented in association with LDP site allocations. It identifies the measures, the related Plan site allocation references, and cross references to the recommendations in the LDP evidence base contained in the Swansea Strategic Transport Model (SSTM) Study. Indicator 97 monitors the progress in delivery of these measures during 2021-22.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	4, 5		
<b>Key policies:</b>	T 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	T 2 – T 9
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>97. Local Indicator: Delivery of priority transport schemes and measures as identified within the Transport Measures Priority Schedule (LDP Appendix 5).</b>	Delivery of priority schemes and measures.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Transport Measures Priority Schedule included in the LDP.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	Progress has been made on delivering several Transport Measures Priority Schemes during 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Progress has been made on delivering several Transport Measures Priority Schemes during 2020-21.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Progress has been made on delivering several Transport Measures Priority Schemes during 2021-22.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Progress has been made on delivering several Transport Measures Priority Schemes during 2021-22. The table below lists the schemes which have been delivered.			
<b><u>Delivery of the Transport Measures Priority Schedule – Highways</u></b>			

<b>Highway Infrastructure Priority Measures</b>			
<b>Plan Ref</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>SSTM / SDA Reference</b>	<b>DELIVERED</b>
<b>Pontarddulais Area</b>			
RM1	Pontarddulais Northern Access Link Road (NALR) from Station Road/Water Street signals to Tyn-y-Bonau Road and through to Glanffrwd Road	SSTM - M, 1, 2  Relevant SDA Site(s) - A	
RM23	Improvements to interrelated Water Street/Station Road and Iscoed Rd/Fforest Rd junctions		
RM24	Town centre improvements to potentially include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two-way link from St Teilo Street to Caecerrig Road on Water Street and Caecerrig Road;</li> <li>• Traffic signals at the Tyn-y-Bonau Road/Dulais Road junction or alternatively widening Water Street to allow two-way traffic flow</li> <li>• Closure of Tyn-y-Bonau Road to through traffic.</li> <li>• Tidal Reach/New Road improvements</li> </ul>		
<b>Gowerton/Gorseinon/Garden Village Areas</b>			
RM2	A484/Victoria Road Junction. Possible signal control and any necessary improvements to Mill Street/Gorwydd Road junction signal control.	SSTM – 4, 8, 9, 11  Relevant SDA Site(s) - B	Partially delivered in 2018/19
RM7	A484/Swansea Road Junction, roundabout modified to signal control		
RM3	A4240/Hospital Rd Roundabout. Signalise Roundabout.		
RM8	Garden Village/Hospital Road Junction. New roundabout on Hospital Road required as part of SDA site B.		
RM26	Potential priority junction and improvements on Swansea Road as secondary access to SDA site B.		
<b>Penllergaer Area</b>			
RM4	Penllergaer Link Road - link and access road to SDA site C which creates a new north-south link road. This internal 'spine street' and associated junctions are to run broadly north to south through the site from the A4240 Gorseinon Road to the A483 and A484. New roundabout	SSTM – 5, 6, JN, JS, 36, 37, 38, Q, 13  Relevant SDA Site(s) - C	

	within SDA site C to provide routes to A483 (inclusive of new signalised junction onto A483) and A484, A4240/Penllergaer Link Signal junction. Inclusive of a new road link between A48 and A484, A4240/Penllergaer Link Junction, in combination with RM5.		
RM5	Pontarddulais Rd/Gorseinon Rd/Swansea Rd Roundabout. Existing Pontarddulais Rd/Gorseinon Rd/Swansea Rd Roundabout converted to signal control in co-ordination with new gateway access to SDA site C.		
RM6	M4 Junction 47 Improvement. Likely to include 4th lane on gyratory, 2 ahead lanes and 2 right turn lanes.		
RM10	A484 Pontarddulais Rd/A483 Swansea Rd roundabout. Modify roundabout to potentially become traffic signal controlled.		
<b>Llangyfelach and Penderry Areas</b>			
RM6	M4 Junction 47 Improvement. Likely to include 4th lane on gyratory, 2 ahead lanes and 2 right turn lanes.	SSTM – 6, F, G, 30, E, 28, 29, 39, HS, 31, 42, HN	
RM15	Upgrade existing Felindre access and bridge. Upgrade of existing access road and bridge with new 3 arm roundabout junction on A48.	Relevant SDA Site(s) – D and G	
RM16	Llangyfelach to A48 Link Road, and A48/Bryntwyod Junction. Internal road junction between Llangyfelach Link Road and Mynydd Newydd, inclusive of 3 arm roundabout and junction on A48.	Delivery of RM18 in association with ABMUHB 'Arch Project' for Morryston Hospital	
RM17	Mynydd Newydd - Llangyfelach Link Road. A new east-west link road inclusive of a Mynydd Newydd Road junction and new signalised Junction on Llangyfelach Road.		
RM18	New road link to connect J46 spur roundabout to Pantlasau Road in the vicinity of Morryston Hospital. Felindre Link/Pantlasau Road Junction (28) and Bus Link for Swansea Metro extension is required.		
RM19	J46 and Clasemont Road/Pantlassau Road Junction improvements to increase capacity. Additional signal control at roundabout entries and at Pantlasau Road junction.		
<b>Fforestfach/Waunarlwydd Area</b>			
RM9	Link Road from A484 to serve business park. Swansea Road/Penllergaer Link Junction and Titanium Road/Penllergaer Link Junction both as new roundabouts on the Swansea Road as part of Link	SSTM – 15, P, 16, 13, 14, 17, 33	

	Road. Incorporates a new spine street with a vehicular and pedestrian bridge over the River Llan, from the A484 Llanelli Link road to the north which will open up the site for development. Spine street to connect to Park and Ride at Gowerton Station.	Relevant SDA Site(s) – H	
RM10	A484 Pontarddulais Rd/A483 Swansea Rd roundabout. Modify roundabout to potentially become traffic signal controlled.		
RM11	Cwmbach Rd/Ystrad Rd Roundabout. Modify cross-roads to roundabout on B4285 Cwmbach Rd/Ystrad Rd.		
RM14	A4216/Cwmbach Road traffic lights. A4216/Cwmbach Road changes to signal control cycle. Implement SCOOT control link junction to Fforestfach Cross.		
<b>Morrison and Mynyddbach Areas</b>			
RM19	J46 and Clasemont Road/Pantlassau Road Junction improvements to increase capacity. Additional signal control at roundabout entries and at Pantlasau Road junction.	SSTM – 29, 40, 41 Relevant SDA Site(s) – E	
RM21	Clasemont Rd/Vicarage Rd improvement. Signalisation of junction to allow turning lanes of sufficient length on Clasemont Road and Pentrepoeth Road.		
<b>Cefn Coed and Cockett Area</b>			
RM12	Link road to provide new spine street aligned with existing site access from Waunarwydd Road. Partial connection to Llwyn Mawr Road via new junction. New Link Road through SDA site F between Waunarwydd Road in the East and Western boundary of SDA F will enable a future connection to Tycoch area.	SSTM – I, 34 Relevant SDA Site(s) – F	
RM13	Tycoch Roundabout improvements. Ty Coch Road/Glanmor Road/Vivian Road improvements using a signal controlled one-way system.		Tycoch Roundabout improvements complete.
<b>Fabian Way Corridor</b>			
RM22	Improvements in association with SDA site K. Langdon Road extension to Baldwin Cres, A483 Fabian Way/Baldwins Cres Junction signal control and new Link road in association with Tidal Lagoon and other	SSTM – D, 23 Relevant SDA Site(s) – K	

	local developments in the Fabian Way corridor. Other measures required as part of the SDA site K masterplan include a new Junction on Fabian Way at Wern Fawr Road.		
<b>Other Areas</b>			
RM20	M4 Junction 45 improvement. Possible alterations to lane allocations on gyratory and approaches, alterations to road markings and gantry signing.	SSTM – 27 Relevant SDA Site(s) – I	
RM27	SDA site I must deliver an internal spine street to run broadly North to South through the Llansamlet East development area from Walters Road to Blawd Road, with new roundabout junctions designed to provide appropriate flood free access in accordance with the requirements of TAN 15.		
RM28	Swansea Central Area highway infrastructure improvements as necessary, having regard to requirements arising from the necessary Transport Assessments and detailed transport modelling and including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Waterfront/Civic Centre/ Paxton Street- Review junction arrangements</li> <li>• St Davids South (LC2) site- Review junction arrangements</li> <li>• Kingsway- Reduce traffic levels and review traffic network arrangements</li> <li>• Oxford Street/Westway- Review of access and traffic network arrangements</li> <li>• Wind Street- To introduce a low speed environment.</li> </ul>	Relevant SDA Site(s) – J	Kingsway is complete.  Oxford Street is complete  Wind Street is complete
RM25	Tawe Riverside – Morfa Road	Relevant SDA Site(s) – L	Complete
<b>Park and Ride Priority Measures</b>			<b>DELIVERED</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	
PR1	Gowerton	Rail based Park and Ride facility by Gowerton Railway Station. Bus linkages to rail station.	Ongoing.



PR2	Llansamlet	Rail based Park and Ride facility by Llansamlet Railway Station – potential for car park at railway station. Bus linkages to rail station.	
PR3	West	Bus based Park & Ride for the west of the City Centre, as specified in the Local Transport Plan (2015-2020). Location not yet mapped.	Ongoing.

<b>Bus Corridor Public Transport Priority Measures</b>			<b>DELIVERED</b>
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	
PT1	High frequency cross-city bus or city-wide Swansea bus-rapid-transit network and Corridor improvements	4 to 5 cross-city high frequency (5 per hour) services - travelling through the city centre but not terminating there. Each corridor shall be subject to bus priority measures, including high quality bus stops (at a distance of around 500-600m from each other – to minimise journey speed while retaining good catchment around stops) with real time information available to passengers.	
PT2	A less frequent orbital bus service	A less frequent orbital bus service (minimum 2 per hour) connecting existing nodes and proposed developments; less frequent orbital service linking Morriston to Llansamlet, Llansamlet to the City Centre via Winch Wen, City Centre to Swansea University, University to Morriston via Llangyfelach.	

<b>Active Travel – Shared Use Path Measures</b>				<b>DELIVERED</b>
<i><b>Bold</b> = Priority Schemes    Grey = Schemes Associated with Strategic Sites</i>				
<b>Ref</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Associated SDA (where relevant)</b>	
AT1	North Pontarddulais Shared Use Path	A route for the strategic housing allocation on the north-western fringe of Pontarddulais, to promote sustainable access to this district centre.	A	Ongoing.
AT2	<b>Pontarddulais Link</b>	<b>A new route for walking and cycling between Grovesend and Pontarddulais, facilitating links (via the Kingsbridge Link) to NCN4.</b>	A	Ongoing.

AT3	Pontarddulais Southern Link	A new route linking to the proposed Pontarddulais Link to provide a link on the southern side of Pontarddulais to this strategic provision.	A	Design work ongoing
AT4	Gorseinon North Shared Use Path	A link to provide access to the adjacent shared use path provision which will link to NCN4.		Complete.
AT5	Gorseinon North Residential Shared Use Path.	A link to provide access to the adjacent shared use path provision which will link to NCN4.		Complete.
AT6	Loughor Link	A link to provide access to the adjacent shared use path provision which will link to NCN4.		
AT7	<b>Kingsbridge Link</b>	<b>The provision of an off-road walking and cycling link between Gowerton &amp; Kingsbridge across Stafford Common.</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>AT7 is largely complete, one small section remains for completion in the coming months.</b>
AT8	Clyne Valley Phase 2 Shared Use Path	A new walking and cycling link, providing connectivity from Sketty to the Foreshore Path and NCN4.		Complete.
AT9	<b>Bryngwyn Fields, Garden Village</b>	<b>A series of shared use paths internal to this development, to promote access to the adjacent shared use path facilities, and will also form an important part of the strategic network for northern Swansea.</b>	<b>B</b>	
AT10	<b>Bryngwyn Fields, Garden Village</b>	<b>As above.</b>	<b>B</b>	
AT11	<b>Bryngwyn Fields, Garden Village</b>	<b>As above.</b>	<b>B</b>	
AT12	<b>Penllergaer Shared Use Path</b>	<b>A shared use path adjacent to Phoenix Way, Penllergaer; linking the developments of Parc Mawr (SDA site B) and Bryngwyn Fields (SDA site B) and</b>	<b>B</b>	

		<b>forming an important part of the strategic network for northern Swansea.</b>		
<b>AT13</b>	<b>Parc Mawr Link</b>	<b>A link from Phoenix Way to the Parc Mawr Development (SDA site C).</b>	<b>C</b>	
<b>AT14</b>	<b>Parc Mawr Shared Use Path</b>	<b>Strategic shared use provision within the Parc Mawr Development (SDA site C) to encourage sustainable transport access to local facilities.</b>	<b>C</b>	
AT15	Wanarlwydd Development Northern Link	Shared use path provision for pedestrians and cyclists.	H	Complete.
AT16	Wanarlwydd Development Southern Link – Phase 1	Shared use path provision for pedestrians and cyclists.	H	
AT17	Wanarlwydd Development Southern Link – Phase 2	Shared use path provision for pedestrians and cyclists.	H	
<b>AT18</b>	<b>A48 Link</b>	<b>Shared use path provision adjacent to the carriageway and forming an important part of the strategic network for northern Swansea.</b>	<b>C &amp; E</b>	<b>Complete.</b>
AT19	Penllergaer Woods Link	A shared use path to provide access to public amenity and providing a link to the Llangyfelach strategic housing site.	D	Ongoing.
<b>AT20</b>	<b>Llanmor Homes Central Shared Use Path</b>	<b>Strategic shared use provision within the Llangyfelach strategic housing site to encourage sustainable transport access to local facilities.</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>AT21</b>	<b>Llanmor Peripheral Link Shared Use Path</b>	<b>Strategic shared use provision within the Llangyfelach strategic housing site to encourage sustainable transport access to local facilities.</b>	<b>D</b>	
<b>AT22</b>	<b>Bryntywod Link</b>	<b>Shared use provision to link Felindre Strategic Business Park and Urban Village to the strategic network on the A48.</b>	<b>G</b>	

AT23	<b>Felindre Sustainable Urban Village</b>	<b>Strategic shared use provision within the Felindre strategic housing site to encourage sustainable transport access to local facilities.</b>	G	
AT24	<b>Morrison Hospital Access Road</b>	<b>Shared use path provision alongside new carriageway to promote a sustainable transport link to the Morrison Hospital site. Will link to SDA site E.</b>	G	
AT25	<b>Morrison Hospital Access Road Shared Use Path</b>	<b>A separate shared use only link to provide access to Morrison Hospital to the north and Clase to the south. Will link to SDA site E.</b>	E	
AT26	Pantlassau Farm Development	Strategic shared use provision within the SDA site E to encourage sustainable transport access to local facilities.	E	
AT27	<b>A48 Link</b>	<b>Shared use path provision adjacent to the carriageway and forming an important part of the strategic network for northern Swansea.</b>	E	<b>Complete.</b>
AT28	North Tawe Riverside Link	A shared use path to provide connectivity to local and strategic shared use path networks.	L	
AT29	Ynystawe Link	A shared use path adjacent to the existing carriageway to provide an off-road route for pedestrians and cyclists to NCN43.		Complete.
AT30	<b>Swansea Vale Shared Use Path</b>	<b>A new shared use path to provide traffic-free access for pedestrians and cyclists to NCN43 and other local links.</b>	I	
AT31	<b>Swansea Vale Shared Use Path</b>	<b>A new shared use path to provide traffic-free access for pedestrians and cyclists to NCN43 and other local links.</b>	I	
AT32	Swansea Vale Shared Use Path	A new shared use path to provide traffic-free access for pedestrians and cyclists to NCN43 and other local links.	I	
AT33	Birchgrove Link	A shared use path to provide connectivity for the residents of Birchgrove to existing, planned and infrastructure in Swansea Vale.	I	
AT34	Peniel Green Link	A shared use path to provide a traffic-free route between Peniel Green and Swansea Vale.	I	

AT35	<b>Peniel Green Shared Use Path</b>	<b>A shared use path to provide a traffic-free route between Peniel Green and Birchgrove via the western end of Frederick Place.</b>	I	Complete
AT36	Carmel Road Shared Use Path	A shared use path to provide a link for pedestrians and cyclists from Trallwn and Winch Wen to the existing strategic routes.		
AT37	Upper Bank Link Phase 2	A new spur to the Upper Bank Cycle Route, to provide connectivity to the strategic housing development and the existing shared use path facilities.		
AT38	Upper Bank Residential Shared Use Path	A shared use path to link with Upper Bank Phase 2 and existing provisions to promote the use of sustainable transport within and beyond the site.		
AT39	<b>Cwm Level Link</b>	<b>A new route to promote walking and cycling linkage to NCN43 at Liberty Stadium.</b>		Complete.
AT40	Tawe Riverside Link	A new link for pedestrians and cyclists, running parallel to Morfa Road and providing a traffic-free route along the riverside from New Cut Road to Landore Park & Ride.	L	
AT41	<b>Orchard Street Shared Use Path</b>	<b>Shared use path provision to serve large student residential development and to deliver a strategic network provision for cyclists through the city centre.</b>	J	AT41 has been completed
AT42	<b>UWTSD Active Travel Infrastructure</b>	<b>A series of new routes for pedestrians and cyclists in and around SA1 Waterfront. These routes will provide connectivity to existing infrastructure for journeys to the north, east and west of the site.</b>	K	
AT43	<b>Tidal Lagoon Access Link</b>	<b>A new route for pedestrians and cyclists on the south side of Fabian Way.</b>	K	
AT44	<b>Tidal Lagoon Access Link</b>	<b>A new route for pedestrians and cyclists on the south side of Fabian Way.</b>	K	
AT45	Morfa Road	A path for pedestrians and cyclists between New Cut Road and Normandy Road Roundabout.		Complete
<b>Action:</b>				

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

**Journey Times**

through the Plan period, Indicator 98 monitors key journey times across the network.

3.96 To help monitor the efficiency of the transport network

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	4, 5			
<b>Key policies:</b>	T 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	T 2–T 4, T 7	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>98. Local Indicator: Monitor relevant key journey times identified in the Transportation Annual Network Report.</b>	Delivery of transport infrastructure and improvement measures to mitigate the impact of development.	<b>Adoption:</b>	No unacceptable increase in key journey times by 2020.	
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>		Baseline figures.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>		Surveys were not possible due to the COVID 19 lockdown, which restricted survey work from taking place and also dramatically reduced traffic levels.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>		Meaningful comparisons to baseline figures of identified key journey times not possible due to the continued impacts of the COVID pandemic.
<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Current journey times show a reduction on the 2014 base case.			
<b>Analysis:</b>				
To inform the transport evidence base for the LDP, Journey Time testing was undertaken on 4 key strategic routes in the County. This included the M4 corridor (J42-48), Morrision Corridor (M4 J45 to City Centre), Mumbles Road to Fabian Way and Carmarthen Road Corridor (M4 J47 to City Centre). The journey times were based on a 2014 base date and journey times on the routes were intended to be monitored annually following adoption of the LDP. Since adoption of the LDP and as reported in the previous AMR's due to the onset of				

the COVID pandemic, surveys were not possible due to restrictions but also given much reduced traffic levels surveys at this time which would have created a false picture of journey times.

As reported in last year's AMR covering the period 2020-21 '*The impact of the COVID pandemic has continued to impact travel patterns throughout 2020-21 due to lockdown restrictions, which affected significant periods of the year, and changes in travel behaviour resulting from the pandemic. It is estimated that traffic levels fell to around 20% of typically recorded levels in April 2020 and remained below typical pre-pandemic 24 hour levels up until September 2020. Further lockdown measures were introduced moving into the winter which again reduced traffic levels. Stay at home restrictions eased towards the end of 2020-21, with for example the phased return of some primary school pupils to schools in February 2021 and stay at home restrictions were replaced by a stay local rule in March 2021.*

*In the early stages of 2021-22, as restrictions have been eased, overall 24 hour traffic levels across the highway network are around 3-5% higher than pre-pandemic levels, but the significant difference is the lack of am and pm peak hours traffic levels due to home working. Pre-pandemic there were very defined am and pm peaks, which is what the key journey times referred to in the indicator are based on. There is now no real am peak, with traffic instead building steadily through the morning. There is now a different peak hour of around 15:00 – 16:00 in the afternoon which is associated with the school pick up. Tourist routes to Mumbles and Gower have been extremely heavily trafficked since the first lockdown was eased, which further skews the overall picture. In summary, trips are being made for different purposes, with more for leisure, far fewer for work related commuting, and the vehicle trips are spread more throughout the day rather than at the am and pm peaks recorded in pre-pandemic times, which means that comparisons to the baseline data are still not possible'*

For this year's AMR covering the period 2021-22 with restrictions being eased and traffic levels returning, journey time testing has resumed for the 4 key strategic routes. In respect of these the measured 2022 average times compared to the 2014 Base Date are summarised as follows:

**M4 Corridor**

For AM, journey times remain relatively constant Eastbound over the 2014 base case and show a 30% reduction westbound

For PM, journey times are lower than 2014 base case.

**Morrison Corridor**

For AM, journey times show a reduction over the 2014 base case

For PM, journey times are lower than the 2014 base case.

**Mumbles Road to Fabrian Way Corridor**

For AM, journey times are around 50% of the 2014 base case  
For PM, journey times show a significant reduction on the 2014 base

**Carmarthen Road Corridor**

For AM, journey times are reduced when compared to the 2014 base scenario  
For PM, northbound journey times are as 2014 business case and southbound measures as a 10 minute reduction

**Conclusions** – Current journey times show a reduction on the 2014 base case. Whilst this is likely due in part to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, overall daily traffic flows have largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels, however travel habits have changed significantly with a reduction in commuting trips in both morning and evening peak hours. Therefore, the identified trigger has not been breached and no further action required.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

**Delivery of Active Travel Measures**

- 3.97 LDP Policy T 1 Development states that development will be required to safeguard, enhance and expand the Active Travel network, particularly by means of improving connectivity; and reduce reliance on car use. Indicator 99 monitors the delivery of new Public Rights of Way (PROW) and Indicator 100 monitors the creation of new cycle networks.



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>4, 5</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>T 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>T 2, T 7, PS 2, SD 2</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>99. Local Indicator: Length of new PROW route created as a % of the overall PROW network and % classed as 'easy to use'.</b>	Delivery of increased PROW network to increase Active Travel opportunities.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	237 m of new PROW created.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No survey undertaken in 2020-21
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No survey undertaken in 2021-22
<b>Analysis:</b>			
The PROW performance survey was not undertaken therefore no data is available for 2021-22.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>4, 5</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>T 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>T 2, PS 2, SD 2</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>100. Local Indicator: Length of new dedicated cycle networks created.</b>	Delivery of increased Active Travel opportunities.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	6.75km of new dedicated cycle routes created in 2019-20.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	8.4km of new dedicated cycle routes created in 2020-21.
If no new cycle network is created via new developments for 2 consecutive years.			

		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	13.1km of new dedicated cycle routes created in 2021-22.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
13.1 km of new dedicated cycle routes created in 2021-22.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

### Public Transport Access

- 3.98 LDP Policy T 1 Development states that development will be required to reduce reliance on car use by maximising the potential of movement to/from the development by public transport, including ensuring developments within the urban area are located a walkable distance to a public transport access point on a route with a high frequency service. Urban developments should normally be within a walkable 400 metres from a public transport access point. Urban developments are defined in the Plan as those within an established settlement, as defined by the Urban Settlement Boundary shown on the Proposals Map, and not within the countryside or identified Key Villages. Indicator 101 monitors the access to public transport of new residential development.

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>4, 5</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>T 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>PS 2, SD 2</b>
<b>101. Local Indicator: % of new residential development located within 400m to a public transport stop.</b>	Increase inclusivity and access by public transport.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning applications consented contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning applications consented contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning applications consented contrary to the policy framework
<b>Trigger point:</b>	If development is permitted which is not served by public transport, or there are no plans in place to do so.		
<b>Analysis:</b>	Supporting text paragraph 2.12.4 states that residential development within the Urban Settlement Boundary of the Proposals Map, this includes Villages, should normally be within a walkable 400 metres from a public transport access point. Approved applications for residential development of 1 or more units were identified in this AMR period and analysed. Of those, 3 were not within 400m of an existing public transport stop. Two were applications for single replacement dwellings located in Pennard, which is designated a 'Key Village' in the LDP and considered as being suitable for accommodating appropriate small scale development, including new housing. These villages have been selected following an assessment of their size, facilities, structure and accessibility. Therefore, despite the access to the nearest public transport stop being greater than 400 metres, it is considered that the new dwellings have sufficient access to the nearest public transport stop which is within reasonable walking distance for a village location. This is also in-line with national policy which recognises that in most rural areas the opportunities for use of public transport are more limited than in urban areas and development should be located in settlements with relatively good accessibility by non car means when compared to the rural area as a whole. One was within Pontarddulais and is within walking distance of the District Centre and is considered to be in a sustainable location, with a bus stop only just over 400m in distance.		
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Policy RP 1: Safeguarding Public Health and Natural Resources

3.99 The LDP sets out that development will not be permitted that would result in significant risk to: life; human health and wellbeing; property; controlled waters; or the natural and historic environment. This relates particularly to the effect of development on air, noise, light and water quality and also the potential risks to human health associated with development in flood risk areas and the redevelopment or remediation of contaminated/unstable land, or development within the statutory consultation zones stipulated by HSE for hazardous installations.

### Impact on Quiet Areas

3.100 Indicator 102 below monitors Policy RP 2 which seeks to ensure that development will not be permitted if it would cause, or result in, a significant increase in levels of environmental noise in an identified Noise Action Planning Priority Area (NAPPA), or would have unacceptable impacts on an identified Quiet Area or the characteristics of tranquillity that led to the designation of a Quiet Area.

LDP Objective(s):	23, 24		
Key policies:	RP 1	Related policies:	RP 2
Indicator:	Target:	Outcome:	Trigger point:
<b>102. Local Indicator:</b> <b>The number of planning applications permitted within designated Quiet Areas.</b>	No planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	4 planning applications consented during 2019-20 within QAs. None were contrary to the policy framework
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	5 planning applications consented during 2020-21 within QAs. None were contrary to the policy framework.
			One planning application permitted contrary to the policy framework.

		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	5 planning applications consented during 2021-22 within QAs. None were contrary to the policy framework.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
Five relevant planning applications were consented during 2021-22. While none of these were located within designated Quiet Areas, three were located adjacent to Clyne Country Park QA, one adjacent to Clyne Cycle Track QA and one adjacent to Swansea Urban Woodland. Further analysis of these cases has shown that none of these decisions were contrary to the overall policy framework.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

### Impact on Air Quality Management Areas

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>4, 5, 21, 24</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>RP 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>RP 3</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>103. Local Indicator: The number of planning applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution</b>	Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels	<b>Adoption:</b>	Policies adopted in the Plan	One planning application permitted contrary to the policy framework.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	34 relevant planning consents granted in 2019-20, none were granted contrary to the policy framework	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	11 relevant planning consents granted in 2020-21, none were granted contrary to the policy framework	

		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	40 relevant planning consents granted in 2021-22, none were granted contrary to the policy framework	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
40 relevant permissions granted. Further analysis of these cases has shown that none were granted contrary to the policy framework.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

### Nitrogen Dioxide Pollution

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>4, 5, 21, 24</b>			
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>RP 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>		<b>RP 3</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>104: Contextual Indicator: Annual mean concentration exceedances of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	Development proposals should not lead to a significant increase in pollution levels.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	The latest monitoring data, which is for 2018, recorded a figure which was lower than in 2017 and recordings are following a downward trend over the last five years of data.	Increase in annual mean concentration exceedances of nitrogen dioxide.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	As of the base date of this AMR report, the 2018 <i>Air Quality Progress Report</i> remains the most up to date data published.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	As of the base date of this AMR report, the 2018 <i>Air Quality Progress Report</i> remains the most	

			up to date data published. Welsh Government Air Pollution Report 2020 shows a decrease in NO <sub>2</sub> concentrations for the last four years.	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>The latest monitoring data, which is for 2018, recorded figures which were lower than in 2017; and available recordings have been following a downward trend over the last five years of data.</p> <p><i>Source: Swansea Council 2018 Air Quality Progress Report, published September 2019</i></p> <p>The Welsh Government Air Pollution Report from 2021, which measures NO<sub>2</sub> across several sites in South Wales, shows a decrease from 2003 to 2020, with a slight increase in 2019 before dropping again in 2020. One of the sites, which is the longest running roadside site in the subset, is located in Murryston (Swansea). The general trend has seen a decrease in NO<sub>2</sub> since measurements began being taken at this site (2001). Furthermore, the report shows that in the last 4 year period of the data set (2016-20), there have been back-to-back decreases in NO<sub>2</sub> concentrations at the Murryston roadside site.</p> <p><i>Source: Air Pollution in Wales 2020 report published 2021</i></p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

**Avoidance of Flood Risk**

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	21, 24			
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	RP 5	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>	
<b>105: The number of planning applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas.</b>	No planning applications permitted where there is an outstanding objection from NRW.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	One application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW.	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>		No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>		No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW.
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				



<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	21, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	RP 5
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>106: The number of planning applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas.</b>	No planning applications permitted where there is an outstanding objection from NRW.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	One application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	
<b>Analysis:</b>			
No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Water Quality

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 19, 20, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>107. Local Indicator: Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status.</b>	All water bodies to meet WFD objectives.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	Latest available data - March 2020: - 6 Bathing Waters excellent, 1 good. - Transitional Waterbodies: Inshore Loughor poor; outside Loughor moderate. - Coastal Waterbodies - moderate.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Latest available data remains March 2020 (see AMR 1 above).
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Latest available data 2021 - 7 Bathing Waters excellent, 1 good - Annual Water Quality Assessment: Good Latest available data 2020 - 5 Waterbodies good, 4 moderate, 2 poor; - State of Coastal waterways moderate (2020) - Transitional Waterbodies: Inshore Loughor poor; Outside Loughor moderate (2020)
			A water body failing to meet WFD objectives.

**Analysis:**

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) establishes a framework for the protection of surface waters (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) and groundwaters. Its purpose is to prevent further deterioration and improve the status of aquatic ecosystems, promote sustainable water use, reduce pollution of groundwater and contribute to mitigating the effects of floods and droughts. The WFD requires no deterioration from 2009 baseline data. The aim is to achieve at least Good status.

The most up to date data shows no change since 2020

- 7 Bathing Waters excellent, 1 good;
- 5 Waterbodies good, 4 moderate, 2 poor;
- Transitional Waterbodies: Inshore Loughor poor; outside Loughor moderate;
- Coastal Waterbodies – moderate.
- Annual Water Quality Assessment: Good (improvement from 2018 sufficient);

Those areas showing poor or moderate status in 2020 have not changed or have improved slightly since the WFD baseline in 2009. Water pollution and the consequent poor water quality can be from a range of sources.

*Sources: Natural Resources Wales (Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru): the NRW South West Wales Area Statement (2020), Water Framework Directive - Rivers Waterbodies and Bathing Water Compliance (2020); 2022 Bathing Water Profile for Swansea Bay; and Bathing Water Annual Classifications (2021)*

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

## Welsh Water Engagement

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 20, 21, 24			
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>		RP 4
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>108. Local Indicator: Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of Welsh Water concerning water supply and the treatment of wastewater</b>	No planning applications permitted where there is an outstanding objection from Welsh Water.	<b>AMR No. 1</b>	One application permitted where there is an outstanding objection from DCWW but further research has shown this decision was in-line with the policy framework.	One application permitted contrary to the advice of Dwr Cymru Welsh Water.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications permitted in 2020-21 where there was an outstanding objection from DCWW.	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from DCWW	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from DCWW.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

## NRW Engagement

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	17, 20, 21, 24			
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>		RP 2 - RP 14
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>109. Local Indicator: Number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of NRW on environmental grounds</b>	No planning applications permitted where there is an outstanding objection from NRW.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No applications permitted in 2019-20 where there was an outstanding objection from NRW	One application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications permitted in 2020-21 where there was an outstanding objection from NRW	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from NRW	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there was an outstanding objection from NRW.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

## Loss of BMV agricultural land

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	15, 17,19		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	CV 2
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>110. Local Indicator: Total % loss of BMV agricultural land.</b>	No loss of BMV agricultural land.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	One planning application permitted on land classified as BMV.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>Best Most Versatile (BMV) agricultural land is land classed as grades 1, 2 or 3a. The Welsh Government's Predicted Agricultural Land Classification database was used to map all BMV land in the County.</p> <p>In 2021-2022 some 84 relevant decisions were identified on land classified as BMV. 1 application was on a greenfield site located in the countryside. It was accompanied by an agricultural land classification survey which identified that the land was not in fact BMV. A further 39 applications were extensions to existing buildings/redevelopment of existing buildings/householder development etc, so did not result in sterilisation of BMV. There were 27 applications for temporary developments on BMV land, 11 applications for agricultural development, and 6 applications for things that were within the curtilage of dwellings in the countryside. No decisions were contrary to the policy framework.</p>			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Maintaining Land for Waste Management

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	8		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	RP 8 -9
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>111. Local Indicator: Maintain sufficient land and facilities to cater for the County's waste capacity</b>	Maintain a sufficient capacity to cater for the County's waste.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	South West Wales Waste Planning Monitoring Report (WPMR) data.
		Sufficient remaining land is allocated within the LDP to accommodate potential future waste infrastructure proposals	
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	
		Sufficient remaining land is allocated within the LDP to accommodate potential future waste infrastructure proposals	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	
		Sufficient remaining land is allocated within the LDP to accommodate potential future waste infrastructure proposals.	
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>The latest information available from the WPMR for the South West Wales region is the 2021-22 report that indicates a predicted regional landfill void capacity of 7.5 years. This figure is dependent upon several assumptions, including the individual circumstances of the landfills currently operating (e.g. potential contracts coming to an end), new landfills or alternative residual treatment plants becoming operational, the reduction in actual quantities of residual waste produced, and increases in the amount of waste recycled, re-used or composted. The County's only landfill site, Tir John closed as a landfill site in 2022 and residual waste is being taken out of County for disposal in Energy from Waste facilities. How this will impact the regional landfill capacity void will be carefully monitored. The Report considers that at the present time the management of residual waste in the Mid and South West Wales region is being adequately catered for and no new capacity is required. Nevertheless, LDP policy does permit the development of new waste treatment works if additional capacity is required and new landfill sites, in exceptional circumstances, including the fact that additional capacity is required. When the</p>			

LDP is reviewed, the waste policies within the LDP should be reviewed to ensure they reflect the latest WPMR and the situation within the County.

In respect of in-building waste treatment facilities, the take-up of employment land is specifically monitored by Indicator 11. Based on the results of the monitoring to date, coupled with the existing network of facilities that are currently operational, it is considered that there is sufficient land and facilities across the County to deal with waste arisings. On this basis, it is considered that the requirements of this indicator have been met.

**Action:**

**No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.**

### Mineral Policy

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>7, 17, 24</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>RP 1</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>RP 13</b>
<b>112: Core Indicator: The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted in accordance with the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for Aggregates expressed as a percentage of the total capacity required as identified in the RTS.</b>	Ensure the LDP mineral policy framework is reviewed in-line with recommendations in future reviews of the RTS.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No applications in 2019-20  The RTS does not apportion any aggregate provision to Swansea so there is no cause for a review
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No applications in 2020-21. The RTS has been reviewed (see below)
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No applications in 2021-2022 have been received.
			Review the LDP mineral policy framework when RTS is reviewed.



<b>Analysis:</b>				
<p>A landbank is defined as a stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals. The most up to date information available which informed the adopted LDP regarding the extent of the crushed rock landbank was published in the Regional Technical Statement (RTS) for the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Party (SWRAWP), 1<sup>st</sup> Review, 2014. The RTS 2014 did not apportion any aggregate provision to Swansea. The LDP does not, therefore, allocate any sites for the winning and working of aggregates. Furthermore, no applications have been received for the winning and working of land based aggregates and thus none have been permitted.</p> <p>A second draft review of the RTS was published in 2019. However, as a draft document its content did not impact upon AMR 1.</p> <p>The RTS 2nd Review, was adopted in 2020 and informed AMR 2. It requires Swansea, through its LDP process, to meet the apportionment of 0.305 million tonnes (mt) of crushed rock (HSA Sandstone) per year until the end of the Plan period and for 10 years thereafter (7.636 million tonnes over 25 years). As it is not possible for Swansea to meet this apportionment requirement immediately, in-line with national planning policy, a sub-regional approach has been taken. Swansea is part of the Swansea City Region, with Neath Port Talbot (NPT) County Borough Council and part of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC). A Statement of Sub Regional Corporation (SSRC) has been agreed which confirms that each constituent LPA accepts the individual apportionments for aggregates for their individual Authority areas, as set out in the RTS (second Review), and that (as a minimum) the RTS requirements for that sub-region as a whole will be met. NPT will cover Swansea's apportionment requirement until the date of Swansea's Full LDP Review, as they have sufficient reserves. Other indicators have highlighted the need for a 4 year statutory Plan review and this will be an important consideration for the Replacement LDP and the policies will need to be reviewed.</p>				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>Policy Review Required</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	7, 17, 24			
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>		RP 13-14
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>		<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>113. Local Indicator: Total area of new development permitted within safeguarded mineral areas, contrary to policy framework.</b>	No unjustified loss of safeguarded mineral resource.	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework	Planning application permitted for development within mineral safeguarded area which is not accompanied by detailed justification.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	No planning consents contrary to the policy framework	
<b>Analysis:</b>				
The applications for development permitted in these safeguarded areas have been reviewed and none were contrary to the policy framework.				
<b>Action:</b>				
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>				

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	7, 17, 24		
<b>Key policies:</b>	RP 1	<b>Related policies:</b>	RP 13-14
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>114. Local Indicator:</b> No planning permission for 'sensitive development' permitted within defined buffer zone.	None stated in the LDP	<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	One planning permission granted for 'sensitive development' within the defined buffer zone.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	
<b>Analysis:</b>			
Sensitive development is defined as: any building occupied by people on a regular basis and includes housing areas, hostels, meeting places, schools and hospitals where an acceptable standard of amenity should be expected. Sensitive development could also include specialised high technology industrial development where operational needs require high standards of amenity (MTAN 1: Aggregates, 2004).			
No planning applications were approved for additional 'sensitive development' within the buffer zone.			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

### ***SPG Preparation***

be prepared to support the LDP along with indicative timescales. Indicator 115 monitors progress.

3.101 Appendix 10 of the LDP sets out a list of SPG that will

<b>LDP Objective(s):</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key policies:</b>	<b>Multiple</b>	<b>Related policies:</b>	<b>Multiple</b>
<b>Indicator:</b>	<b>Target:</b>	<b>Outcome:</b>	<b>Trigger point:</b>
<b>115. Local Indicator: Adoption of SPG set out in LDP Appendix 10.</b>	Publication in period specified in LDP Appendix 10.	<b>Adoption:</b>	Schedule of SPG to support the Plan set out in Appendix 10.
		<b>AMR No. 1:</b>	One SPG adopted and four others being prepared for consultation.
		<b>AMR No. 2:</b>	Two SPG adopted and two others Draft SPG's subject to public consultation.
		<b>AMR No. 3:</b>	Five SPG adopted.
<b>Analysis:</b>			
<p>During 2021-22 the Council adopted 5 SPGs following public consultation: Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands; Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB; Placemaking Guidance for Residential Development; Placemaking Guidance for Infill and Backland Development; and Placemaking Guidance for Householder Development.</p> <p>Since the adoption of the LDP in February 2019 the Council has also adopted the following SPG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses in Multiple Occupation and Purpose Built Student Accommodation</li> <li>• Morriston conservation area review</li> <li>• Ffynone and Uplands conservation area review</li> <li>• Biodiversity and Development</li> <li>• Mumbles Conservation Area Review</li> </ul> <p>The above is contributing to the delivery of the SPG program set out in the LDP.</p>			
<b>Action:</b>			
<b>No further action required, other than to continue monitoring.</b>			

## Chapter 4. Sustainability Appraisal Indicators

### *Introduction*

4.1 The LDP was subject to Sustainability Appraisal (SA) including Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as an iterative process throughout the plan preparation process. Further details are given in the LDP SA documents. The SA incorporated the SEA requirements, and all references to SA in this AMR should be taken to include SEA. The SA appraised the likely social, environmental and economic effects of the plan and its likely impacts in terms of sustainable development.

4.2 The SEA Regulations (Article 17) require that the significant environmental effects of the Plan are monitored in order that any unforeseen adverse effects can be remediated. To avoid duplication between the monitoring carried out for the SA and the LDP, in-line with the WG DPM (which states that opportunities for joint reporting should be maximised), some indicators have been used for both purposes.

4.3 The SA objectives are separated into 14 themes to reflect the topics listed in the SEA Regulations, S2(6) and the interrelationship between them. The themes are:

- Sustainable Development
- Biodiversity (including flora and fauna)
- Population
- Economy
- Human Health
- Soil
- Water
- Water/Soil/Landscape/Population
- Air/Climatic Factors
- Climatic Factors
- Climatic Factors/Material Assets
- Material Assets
- Cultural heritage (including architectural/heritage)
- Landscape

4.4 A total of 22 objectives are identified and monitoring indicators were drafted, developed and refined throughout the evolution of the LDP and SA. In developing the indicators, it was recognised that data availability and context could change over time so the indicators would need to be kept under review.

4.5 Some SA monitoring indicators cannot be monitored anymore because the data is no longer available. A small number of Core LDP Indicators have been deleted and replaced with new ones, as required by the updated WG DPM. The following table highlights how the SA indicators have been amended slightly in this AMR to reflect these issues. Where amendments

have been made, opportunities have been maximised for joint reporting with LDP indicators in-line with the WG DPM.

**Table 6: Notes on SA Indicator Status**

SA THEME	SA Objective	Indicator	Comment
Sustainable Development	Promotion of sustainable development	Crime Rate per 1,000 population.	Indicator has been amended to reflect information available.
Population	Increase community safety and sense of security	Crime Rate per 1,000 population.	See above
	Enable people to meet their housing needs and provide good quality housing	The housing land supply, taken from current JHLAS	Replaced by new LDP monitoring Indicators 5a and 5b in-line with the WG DPM
		The number of planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted annually.	Indicator replaced with LDP monitoring indicator 9.
		Newly arising need for pitches in addition to that identified in the GTAA evidence on which the LDP is based	LDP Indicator 9a added
Water	Promote the efficient use of water resources	Area where there is unsustainable water abstraction from either surface or ground waters	Data not available
Climatic Factors	Support adaptation and mitigation measures due to climate change	The number of planning applications permitted accompanied by a Renewable Energy Assessment	Data not available

	Improvement in prudent and efficient use of energy	Carbon Emissions – total CO2 emissions per capita.	Data refers to CO2e emissions, rather than CO2 emissions. Indicator requires amending at LDP Review stage in order to refer to CO2e.
	Improvement in prudent and efficient use of energy	The amount of energy (MW) from renewable sources generated in the County per year	Latest statistics provide data for 'Low Carbon' energy generation, rather than 'renewable'.
Climatic Factors/Material Assets	Promote the sustainable management of waste in an integrated manner, aiming towards zero waste by 2050	The number of planning applications permitted accompanied by site waste management plans	Site Waste Management Plans are now voluntary in Wales. Indicator no longer monitored.
		The number of waste facilities permitted and refused on employment sites	Replaced by LDP indicator 111.
Cultural Heritage	Protect and enhance the quality of the cultural and historic environment	The amount and type of development permitted within Conservation Areas and other designated sites	Replaced by LDP indicator 89.
		The amount and type of development permitted impacting upon buildings of local importance, architectural or cultural importance	Not currently possible to monitor this indicator.

4.6 Key issues for monitoring will be those areas of the environment where the SA Report indicated the implementation of the LDP will have the most significant likely effect. These include:

- Loss of habitats and species (biodiversity);
- Impact on landscape character, particularly protected landscapes;
- Impact on the cultural and historic environment, particularly the Welsh language and archaeology;
- Air pollution, particularly with regard to increased vehicular emissions;
- Increased development in flood risk areas;
- The provision of affordable housing to meet local needs, particularly in rural areas;

- The provision of necessary social and community infrastructure and highway and transport improvements, to facilitate the delivery of SDAs as required by the masterplanning principles to deliver sustainable and cohesive communities.
- Increased employment and economic activity throughout the County as a result of the economic strategy of the Plan.

### Scoring

	Generally positive impacts
	Mixed impacts
	Generally negative impacts
0	Neutral impact
	Indicator not monitored

- 4.7 Each SA objective is assessed against the relevant monitoring indicators, with the findings set out in the sections below. The following colour coding has been used to give an overall summary of the findings for each indicator



## SA Theme: Sustainable Development

### SA Objective 1: Promotion of Sustainable Development

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Gross Value Added (GVA) per hour worked</b> <i>(contextual indicator)</i>	<b>A decrease is recorded for 2 consecutive years</b>	<b>16</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP Indicator 16, Chapter 3. The latest published data for Swansea is for 2020, which was released in Jul 2022. A decrease has been recorded in the Swansea GVA for the first time. Productivity in 2020 was impacted nationally by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, which had negative impacts on national and local GDP and GVA. Direct comparisons with data at the time the Plan was adopted are also complicated by the change in index base year.					
<b>Worklessness rate (working age)</b> <i>(contextual indicator)</i>	<b>An increase is recorded for 2 consecutive years</b>	<b>15</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP Indicator 15, Chapter 3. Small increase in the worklessness figure for Swansea. This is an increase of 0.2% people of working age not in employment but a 1.1% decrease in the worklessness rate. Over the same period across Wales saw the number of people not in employment decrease by 0.6% and a 1% decrease in the worklessness rate. The increase in worklessness in Swansea is a result of an increase in unemployment. The data set used for these figures covers a year when the Covid Job Retention Scheme ended. This could be one explanation for the increase in unemployment in both Swansea and in Wales. However, the worklessness rate in Swansea decreased by 1.1% thanks to the increase in people living in Swansea of working age and the increase in economically active persons. This is a good indicator that the growth in Swansea noted since the introduction of the LDP has been sustainable, seeing that it has been able to withstand external pressures such as Covid.					
<b>Length of new PROW route created as a % of the overall PROW network and % classed as 'easy to use'</b>	<b>If no new PROW network is created in addition to existing network</b>	<b>99</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b>					

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Please see LDP Indicator 99, Chapter 3. The creation of more PROW will have a generally positive impact on health and wellbeing of the population and thus the promotion of sustainable development. The PROW performance survey was not undertaken during this AMR period and therefore no data is available for 2021-22.					
<b>Violence against the person (offences per 1000 population) (<i>contextual indicator</i>)</b>	n/a	n/a	0		
This indicator was amended in AMR 1 to be more precise, in order to reflect available statistics. Latest data available is for year end 2021, which shows a figure of 27.76 (per 1000 population). This is higher than both AMR2 and AMR1, but is the 4 <sup>th</sup> lowest of all Welsh local authorities. (source: <a href="#">Violence against the person (offences per 1,000 population) in Swansea   LG Inform (local.gov.uk)</a> . ONS data. Last update 27/06/22))					

### SA Theme: Biodiversity

#### SA Objective 2: Maintain and enhance biodiversity resource and protected habitats and species.

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR3
<b>The number of planning applications permitted on nationally and internationally designated sites, regionally or locally important biodiversity sites contrary to the policy framework.</b>	<b>A single permission contrary to the policy framework.</b>	70			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP Indicator 70, Chapter 3. 2 planning applications located on internationally, nationally and regionally designated sites important for biodiversity were consented in 2021-22. These decisions have been reviewed and no planning applications					

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR3
were permitted contrary to the LDP policy framework on designated sites of international, national or regional ecological importance.					
<b>The number of applications permitted on regionally designated geodiversity sites.</b>	<b>A single permission contrary to the policy framework.</b>	71			
<b>Commentary:</b> 9 planning consents for the renewal of temporary permission in close proximity to a designated geodiversity site, all relating to the same address. The decisions were in-line with the policy framework.					

### **SA Theme: Population**

#### **SA Objective 3: Increase community safety and sense of security**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR3
Violence against the person (offences per 1000 population). ( <i>contextual indicator</i> )	n/a	n/a	0		
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see SA Objective 1: Promotion of Sustainable Development.					

### **SA Theme: Population**

#### **SA Objective 4: Enable people to meet their housing needs and provide good quality housing**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
The housing land supply, taken from current JHLAS measured in years supply.	The housing land supply falls below 5 years as determined by the JHLAS in any given year.	5			
<b>Commentary:</b> The Council is no longer required to report on this Indicator due to amendments to national policy and guidance. It has been replaced by new Core Indicators 5a and 5b.					
Completions measured against the AAR set out in the plan presented in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %)	The overall number of additional dwellings built within the County falls below the requirement for 2 consecutive years.	5a			
<b>Commentary:</b> See commentary under LDP indicator 5a.					
Cumulative completions measured against the cumulative average annual housing requirement set out in the Plan presented both in numerical and percentage terms (plus/minus x %).	The number of additional dwellings built within the County falls below the requirement for 2 consecutive years.	5b			
<b>Commentary:</b> See commentary under LDP indicator 5.					

<b>Number of net additional affordable and general market dwellings built in the County (though the planning system) minus demolitions.</b>	<b>The overall number of additional dwellings built within the County falls below the requirement for 2 consecutive years.</b>	<b>6</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> See commentary under LDP indicators 5 and 6.					
<b>The number of planning applications for Gypsy and Traveller sites permitted annually</b>		<b>n/a</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> This indicator is not being monitored for the LDP. Indicator replaced with LDP monitoring indicator 9.					
<b>Provision is made to meet the Gypsy &amp; Traveller needs identified within the GTAA over the periods:</b> <b>2016-21 – 7 residential pitches at Pant y Blawd Road (planning permission reference 2018/0830).</b> <b>2021-25 – 6 residential pitches (or the re-assessed need for pitches identified in the new GTAA expected to be published in 2020).</b>	<b>Development of 2018/0830 at Pant y Blawd Road not completed by 2021.</b>  <b>No start on site in year 2023/24 for delivery of 6 pitches to meet residual need (or sufficient pitches to address the re-assessed need).</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Commentary:</b> See commentary under LDP indicator 9					
<b>Newly arising need for pitches in addition to that identified in the GTAA evidence on which the LDP is based</b>		<b>9a</b>			

**Commentary:**  
See commentary under LDP indicator 9a

## SA Theme: Population

### SA Objective 5: Provide high quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities which meet future needs

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Provision of community facilities and infrastructure on SDA's in accordance with the Masterplan and Policy	Community facilities and infrastructure not delivered in accordance with the policy framework or within the agreed phased period on an SDA.	26			
<p><b>Commentary:</b> Please refer to LDP indicators 26, 27-69 for further details on each SDA. Progress has been monitored for each SDA individually in the tables for LDP indicators 27-69. It has been demonstrated that the sites are progressing in-line with the site masterplans and policies. The associated community facilities will have a positive impact ensuring the needs of the County's population can be met in the future.</p>					

## SA Theme: Population

### SA Objective 6: Encourage an inclusive society and promote equality

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Worklessness rate (working age)		15			
<p><b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under 'SA Theme: Sustainable Development, SA Objective 1: Promotion of Sustainable Development'. The decrease in workless rates for Swansea should have a positive impact on social equality and an inclusive society.</p>					

<b>Provision of community facilities and infrastructure on SDA's in accordance with the Masterplan and Policy</b>	<b>Community facilities and infrastructure not delivered in accordance with the policy framework or within the agreed phased period on an SDA.</b>	<b>26</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under 'SA Theme: Population, SA Objective 5: Provide High Quality, Accessible Lifelong Learning Opportunities Which Meet Future Needs'.					
<b>The number of applications permitted in the WLSA accompanied by a Language Action Plan</b>	<b>One application permitted within the LSA contrary to the policy framework.</b>	<b>88</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> No applications permitted within the WLSA contrary to the policy framework during the monitoring period, resulting in a general positive impact on an inclusive society.					
<b>The net change, type and spatial distribution of community facilities</b>	<b>Loss of community facilities as recorded over a 2 year period.</b>	<b>85</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> There have been no loss of community facilities, contrary to policy framework (please refer to LDP indicator 85, Chapter 3).					



<b>% of new residential development located within 400m of a public transport stop</b>		<b>101</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> See commentary for LDP indicator 101 which shows the LDP policies are helping contribute to an inclusive society.					
<b>Average full-time weekly earnings</b>	<b>A decrease is recorded for 2 consecutive years.</b>	<b>14</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> The latest available estimates on earnings are for April 2021. Full time employee gross median weekly earnings estimates saw an annual increase of 2.1% between April 2020 to 2021. The annual change is positive which may impact on society. However, as in the AMR1, a more detailed analysis would be beneficial to examine whether the increase in earnings is equal across all economic sectors of the population, thus contributing to an inclusive and fair society.					

**SA Theme: Economy**

**SA Objective 7: Support the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea’s role as a regional economic driver**

Indicator	LDP Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Employment land permitted (ha) on allocated sites as a % of all employment allocations</b>	<b>None specified in the LDP</b>	<b>11</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> In addition to the 2.7ha consented during 2019-2020, and the 0.8 ha of total employment land granted planning consent in 2020-21, the 2.4 ha consented in 2021-22 equates to a total of 5.9 ha or 9.8% of the overall LDP allocation of 60 ha. It should be noted that the Plan provides a higher level of employment land allocations than the identified employment land requirement of 19 ha. The allocations have been made on a range of sites for different types of investors at sustainable locations across the County, to maximise opportunities for investment and to be flexible to changes in market demand. Therefore it is also useful to					

Indicator	LDP Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
note that the amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 31.1% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement. This will have a general positive impact on the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea's role as a regional economic driver.					
<b>Amount of major retail office and leisure development (sqm) permitted within and outside established town and district centre boundaries</b>	<b>One application permitted contrary to the policy framework</b>	<b>12</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see commentary for LDP indicator 12, Chapter 3, for the amount of development permitted. No applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. This will have a general positive impact on the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea's role as a regional economic driver. It will help contribute to a prosperous economic outlook and sustainable economy.					
<b>Productivity – GVA per hour worked</b>	<b>A decrease recorded for 2 consecutive years</b>	<b>16</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary for 'SA Theme: Sustainable Development, SA Objective 1: Promotion Of Sustainable Development'.					

## SA Theme: Economy

### SA Objective 8: Promote and Enhance the Rural Economy

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Number of rural enterprise planning applications permitted	No increase in the number of rural enterprises permitted.	13			
<b>Commentary:</b> In 2021-22, AMR 3, a total of 61 relevant applications were determined, of which 57 were permitted/prior approval not required. Comparisons over time are difficult to judge and this indicator will need to be reviewed when the LDP is reviewed.					

## SA Theme: Economy

### SA Objective 9: Support the development of the environmental goods and services sector

Indicator	LDP Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Estimated output, value added and employment for the 'Environmental goods and services' sector (ONS Sustainable Development supplementary indicator 10).	none	n/a			
<b>Commentary:</b> Data presented is at the UK level, as no data is available at Welsh or County level. The data was published in June 2020, with provisional 2018 data. The Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) has shown continued growth over a 2-year period 2016-2018 which will have a positive impact on the green economy. Output has increased from £73,043 (million) in 2016 to £87,044 (million) in 2018. GVA has increased from £36,802 (million) in 2016 to £42,265 (million) in 2018. Employment (FTE) in the sector has risen from 370,400 in 2016 to 404,2000 in 2018. The growth will have a positive impact on the green economy.					

Indicator	LDP Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<p>As in the previous AMR, data is presented is at the UK level, as no data is available at Welsh or County level. The data was published in June 2021 and contains final 2018 data, rather than the provisional 2018 data presented in AMR1. Data presented therefore differs slightly from that in the previous AMR.</p> <p>The Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) has shown continued growth over a 2-year period 2016-2018 which will have a positive impact on the green economy. Output has increased from £72,076 (million) in 2016 to £84,481 (million) in 2018. GVA has increased from £36,048 (million) in 2016 to £40,691 (million) in 2018. Employment (FTE) in the sector has risen from 369,400 in 2016 to 403,100 in 2018. The growth will have a positive impact on the green economy.</p> <p><i>Data source: ONS Dataset 'Estimates of the UKs environmental goods and services sector: output, gross value added, employment and exports 2010-2018 (2021). The EGSS framework, adopted under the UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting, provides a set definition and specification of activities that start to represent the green economy. The EGSS is made up of areas of the economy engaged in producing goods and services for environmental protection purposes, as well as those engaged in conserving and maintaining natural resources</i></p>					

### **SA Theme: Human Health**

#### **SA Objective 10: Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Provision of community facilities and infrastructure on SDAs in accordance with the Site Masterplan and Policy</b>	<b>Community facilities and infrastructure not delivered in accordance with the policy framework or within the agreed phased period on an SDA</b>	<b>26</b>			

<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under 'SA Theme: Population, SA Objective 5: Provide High Quality, Accessible Lifelong Learning Opportunities Which Meet Future Needs'					
<b>The number of existing open spaces lost to development contrary to the open Space Assessment</b>	<b>One application permitted resulting in the loss of open space contrary to the policy framework.</b>	<b>77</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Eight planning approvals were granted that impacted on Fields in Trust (FIT) or Accessible Natural Greenspace (ANGS) provision as defined by Policy SI 5 and the Open Space Assessment (OSA). An analysis of these planning consents has shown that they were permitted in-line with the policy framework.					
<b>Length of new PROW created as a % of the overall PROW network and % classed as 'easy to use'</b>	<b>If no new PROW network is created in addition to existing network, via new developments for 2 consecutive years.</b>	<b>99</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme: Sustainable Development, SA Objective 1: Promotion of Sustainable Development.					
<b>Length of new dedicated cycle networks created</b>	<b>If no new cycle network is created via new developments for 2 consecutive years.</b>	<b>100</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> 13.1 km of new dedicated cycle routes created in 2021-22, helping to meet the objective of the LDP creating social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being.					
<b>No loss in active travel routes</b>	<b>% decrease in Active Travel routes over 2 consecutive year period.</b>	<b>87</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> There has been no loss in Active Travel routes in Swansea, helping to meet the objective of the LDP creating social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being.					

<b>% of new residential development located within 400m to a public transport stop.</b>	<b>If development is permitted which is not served by public transport, or there are no plans in place to do so.</b>	<b>101</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme: Population, SA Objective 6: Encourage an inclusive society and promote equality. Locating new development within 400m of a bus stop will help to meet the objective of the LDP creating social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being.					

### **SA Theme: Soil**

#### **SA Objective 11: Protect Soil Resources**

Indicator	Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Amount of greenfield land lost not allocated in the LDP (ha)</b>	<b>Planning permission granted for development resulting in the loss of greenfield land contrary to the policy framework.</b>	<b>25</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> No planning consents granted for development of sites of 100+ housing units on greenfield land contrary to the policy framework in 2021-22, which has resulted in general positive impacts for this objective.					
<b>Total % loss of BMV agricultural land</b>	<b>One application permitted on land classified as BMV</b>	<b>110</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> There has been no loss of BMV agricultural land during this monitoring period contrary to the policy framework, which has resulted in general positive impacts for this objective.					

**SA Theme: Water**

**SA Objective 12: Improve the quality of inland coastal water (surf zone) and rivers**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Percentage of water bodies at good ecological status	A water body failing to meet WFD objectives	107	0	0	0
<p><b>Commentary:</b>                      The majority of data remains the same as in AMR1 (NRW South West Wales Area Statement 2020) so text remains largely the same as in AMR1. The only change being the monitoring of one extra bathing water (classified excellent), and the inclusion of the Annual Water Quality Assessment (no change since 2019) and the State of River Waterbodies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7 Bathing Waters excellent, 1 good;</li> <li>- 5 Waterbodies good, 4 moderate, 2 poor;</li> <li>- Transitional Waterbodies: Inshore Loughor poor; outside Loughor moderate;</li> <li>- Coastal Waterbodies – moderate;</li> <li>- Annual Water Quality Assessment: Good (improvement from 2018 sufficient).</li> </ul> <p>The WFD requires no deterioration from 2009 baseline data. The aim is to achieve at least Good status. While some areas are showing poor or moderate status in 2020, they have not changed or have improved slightly since the WFD baseline in 2009. The NRW 2020 data does not show the % of waterbodies at good or above status so the data above can be used as a baseline to monitor in future. The LDP’s impact on the quality of inland coastal water and rivers is therefore scored neutral at this time and the data acts as a baseline for future monitoring in line with NRW reviews.</p>					

**SA Objective 13: Promote the efficient use of water resources**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Area where there is unsuitable water abstraction for either surface or ground waters		n/a			
<b>Commentary:</b> As in AMR1, no data could be found in relation to groundwater abstraction, so this indicator could not be monitored					

### **SA Theme: Water/Soil/Landscape/Population**

#### **SA Objective 14: Ensure development respects constraints such as floodplains and unstable land**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>The number of planning applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas</b>	<b>One planning application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW</b>	<b>105</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP monitoring indicator 105, chapter 3. No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW. This a generally positive outcome and ensures that development has met this objective during the monitoring period.					
<b>The number of planning applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas</b>	<b>One planning application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW</b>	<b>106</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP monitoring indicator 106, chapter 3. No applications permitted where there was: an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk; or contrary advice from NRW. This a generally positive outcome and ensures that development has met this objective during the monitoring period.					



**SA Theme: Air/Climatic factors**

**SA Objective 15: Promote an integrated transport system and encourage sustainable travel and development patterns that do not cause significant harm to air quality**

Indicator	Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>The number of planning applications permitted within the AQMA contrary to the policy framework and should not lead to an increase in the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution</b>	<b>One planning application permitted contrary to the policy framework</b>	<b>103</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> 40 relevant permissions granted. Further analysis of these cases has shown that none were granted contrary to the policy framework. The LDP policies are therefore being implemented correctly and should be having a generally positive impact on air quality.					
<b>Annual mean concentration exceedences of nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)</b>	<b>Increase in annual mean concentration exceedences of nitrogen dioxide</b>	<b>104</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> The latest published monitoring data, which is for 2018, recorded figures which were lower than in 2017; and recordings have been following a downward trend over the last five years.					
<b>Length of new PROW created as a % of the overall PROW network and % classed as 'easy to use'</b>	<b>If no new PROW network is created in addition to existing network, via new developments for 2 consecutive years.</b>	<b>99</b>			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme: Sustainable Development, SA Objective 1: Promotion of Sustainable Development. The creation of new PROW will have a positive impact on this objective.					

Indicator	Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
Length of new dedicated cycle networks created	If no new cycle network is created via new developments for 2 consecutive years.	100			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme Human Health, SA Objective 10: Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being. The creation of new cycle networks will have a positive impact on this objective.					
No loss in active travel routes	% decrease in Active Travel routes over 2 consecutive year period.	87			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme Human Health, SA Objective 10: Create social and physical environments that encourage and support health and well-being. The increase in active travel routes will have a positive impact on this objective.					
% of new residential development located within 400m to a public transport stop	If development is permitted which is not served by public transport, or there are no plans in place to do so.	101			
<b>Commentary:</b> Refer to commentary under SA Theme: Population, SA Objective 6: Encourage an inclusive society and promote equality. The delivery of development close to public transport will have a positive impact on this objective.					

### **SA Theme: Climatic Factors**

#### **SA Objective 16: Support adaptation and mitigation measures due to climate change**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
The number of planning applications permitted within C1 floodplain areas	One planning application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW	105			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP monitoring indicator 105, chapter 3 and refer to commentary under SA Objective 14: Ensure development respects constraints such as floodplains and unstable land.					
The number of planning applications permitted within C2 floodplain areas	One planning application permitted contrary to the advice of NRW	106			
<b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP monitoring indicator 106, chapter 3 and refer to commentary under SA Objective 14: Ensure development respects constraints such as floodplains and unstable land.					
The number of planning applications for renewable energy and capacity permitted – electricity and heat	No planning applications permitted for renewable energy by 2020. No increase in capacity by 2020.	94			
<b>Commentary:</b> 17 applications permitted for solar panels on buildings; 6 applications permitted for air source heat pumps on buildings and a Greener Grid Energy Park was permitted. So the target to increase renewable energy capacity is therefore being met.					

### **SA Theme: Climatic Factors**

#### **SA Objective 17: Improvement in prudent and efficient use of energy**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Carbon Emissions – total CO2 emissions per capita</b>	<b>Increase in carbon emissions per capita</b>	<b>96</b>			
<p><b>Commentary:</b>            Latest available data is for 2020 which shows that the estimated CO2 emissions of 3.7 tonnes equivalent per capita (tCO2e) for Swansea (a decrease from 4.2 tonnes per capita in 2019). Therefore no increase identified in carbon emissions per capita for Swansea. In comparison, emissions for Wales were also estimated to have decreased from 7.6 tonnes per capita in 2018 to 6.6 in 2020.</p>					
<b>The amount of energy from renewable sources generated in the County per year</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>n/a</b>		<b>0</b>	
<p><b>Commentary:</b> A contextual indicator, not collected for LDP monitoring, but for the SA Report. The data is updated every 2 years, and the latest information is for 2019. As for the previous AMR's, the data relates to 'low carbon' energy generation rather than 'renewable', so it is recommended that the indicator is amended at LDP Review to reflect available data. Low Carbon electrical generation in the County in 2019 = 135,621MWhe. This a significant increase from the 2018 figure of 61,572MWhe (<i>source: Stats Wales</i>).</p>					

### SA Objective 18: Development of appropriate types of renewable energy resources

Indicator	Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>The number of planning applications for renewable energy and capacity permitted – electricity and heat</b>	<b>No planning applications permitted for renewable energy by 2020. No increase in capacity by 2020.</b>	<b>94</b>			
<p><b>Commentary:</b>            See LDP indicator 96 and refer to commentary under SA objective 16: Support adaptation and mitigation measures due to climate change. An increase in the number of renewable energy developments permitted and the resultant increase in low</p>					

Indicator	Tigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
carbon electrical generation, together with a decrease in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita, will have a generally positive impact on climatic change, as a result of a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in renewable/low carbon energy production.					

<b>The amount of energy from renewable sources generated in the County per year</b>	n/a	n/a			
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**Commentary:**

A contextual indicator, not collected for LDP monitoring, but for the SA Report. Refer to commentary under SA objective 17: Improvement in prudent and efficient use of energy. An increase in low carbon electrical generation, together with a decrease in carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions per capita, will have a generally positive impact on climatic change, as a result of a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions and an increase in renewable/low carbon energy production.

**SA Theme: Climatic Factors/Material Assets**

**SA Objective 19: Promote sustainable management of waste in an integrated manner, aiming towards zero waste by 2050**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Maintain sufficient land and facilities to cater for the County’s waste capacity</b>	<b>South West Wales Waste Planning Monitoring Report data.</b>	<b>111</b>			

**Commentary:**

Sufficient land and facilities are available within the county to cater for the County’s waste capacity. See LDP indicator 111, chapter 3. The 'Waste Planning Monitoring Report (WPMR) for the South West Wales region 2020-21 provides information on the waste situation within South West Wales in order to monitor the region’s waste arisings, recovery and disposal and in order to make forecasts of future arisings. The LDP continues to promote the sustainable management of waste, which has a positive impact on the County’s sustainable development.

**SA Theme: Material Assets**

**SA Objective 20: Efficient use of minerals that safeguard existing resources and promote the use of secondary aggregates over primary resources where appropriate.**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
The extent of primary land-won aggregates permitted in accordance with the RTS for Aggregates expressed as a % of the total capacity required as identified in the RTS	Review the LDP mineral policy framework when RTS is reviewed	112			

**Commentary:**  
 A landbank is defined as a stock of planning permissions for the winning and working of minerals. Please see LDP monitoring indicator 112, chapter 3. The RTS 2nd Review, was adopted in 2020 and informs AMR 2. It requires Swansea, through its LDP process, to meet the apportionment of 0.305 million tonnes (mt) of crushed rock (HSA Sandstone) per year until the end of the Plan period and for 10 years thereafter (7.636 million tonnes over 25 years). As it is not possible for Swansea to meet this apportionment requirement immediately, in-line with national planning policy, a sub-regional approach has been taken. Swansea is part of the Swansea City Region, with Neath Port Talbot (NPT) County Borough Council and part of Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC). A Statement of Sub Regional Corporation (SSRC) has been agreed which confirms that each constituent LPA accepts the individual apportionments for aggregates for their individual Authority areas, as set out in the RTS (second Review), and that (as a minimum) the RTS requirements for that sub-region as a whole will be met. NPT will cover Swansea’s apportionment requirement until the date of Swansea’s Full LDP Review, as they have sufficient reserves.

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>Total area of new development permitted within safeguarded mineral contrary to policy framework</b>	<b>Planning application permitted for development within mineral safeguarded area which is not accompanied by detailed justification</b>	113			
Please see LDP monitoring indicator 113, chapter 3. The applications for development permitted in these safeguarded areas have been reviewed and none were contrary to the policy framework.					



**SA Theme: Cultural Heritage**

**SA Objective 21: Protect and enhance the quality of the cultural and historic environment**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
<b>The number of planning applications permitted in the WLSA accompanied by a Language Action Plan</b>	<b>One application permitted within the LSA contrary to the policy framework</b>	<b>88</b>			
<p><b>Commentary:</b> Please see LDP indicator 88, Chapter 3. No applications were permitted within the Welsh Language Sensitive Area contrary to the policy framework during the monitoring period. Applications within the Welsh language Sensitive Area have therefore been permitted in accordance with the LDP framework and measures to safeguard and encourage the use of the Welsh language have been addressed.</p>					
<b>Number of applications permitted that will adversely affect Scheduled Ancient Monuments, registered historic parks and gardens, listed buildings and conservation areas.</b>	<b>Further investigation if 1 (or more) planning permissions are given where there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors over any year.</b>	<b>89</b>			
<p><b>Commentary:</b> During 2021-22 there were no planning application permitted where an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors remained. The implementation of LDP policies have therefore had a generally positive impact on the protection and enhancement of the quality of the cultural and historical environment.</p>					

The number of applications permitted within an archaeological sensitive area	Further investigation if 1 (or more) planning permissions are given where there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors over any year.	90			
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**Commentary:**  
 No applications permitted in 2021-22 where there is an outstanding objection from statutory heritage advisors. The implementation of LDP policies have therefore had a generally positive impact on the protection and enhancement of the quality of the cultural and historical environment.

**SA Theme: Landscape**

**SA Objective 22: Maintain and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape.**

Indicator	LDP Trigger Point	LDP monitoring indicator ref	Outcome		
			AMR 1	AMR 2	AMR 3
The number of applications permitted within the AONB and Special Landscape Areas contrary to the policy framework	One planning application permitted contrary to the policy framework.	72			

**Commentary:**  
 An analysis has been undertaken of the planning applications permitted for development in the AONB and SLAs. There were no planning applications permitted contrary to the policy framework. The implementation of policy has positive impacts on the SA objective of maintaining and enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape. This is very important in an area of nationally protected landscapes, the character of which attracts significant numbers of visitors, contributing substantially to the county's economy and supporting many jobs and services.

<b>The number of applications permitted for development in the green wedge</b>	<b>The openness of the green wedge to be safeguarded and protected</b>	<b>73</b>		
<p><b>Commentary</b>  4 planning application permitted on land designated as a Green Wedge in 2021-22. 1 single planning application sought to make a previous temporary consent permanent. The decision recognised that the site is located within the Green Wedge, but it was determined after careful consideration, on balance, that in this particular instance there were very exceptional circumstances demonstrated to outweigh the harm to the green wedge to grant a permanent, personal planning permission as a justified departure to the development plan. The implementation of policy has positive impacts on the SA objective of maintaining and enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape.</p>				
<b>Number of planning applications for development permitted outside defined settlement boundaries of the urban and key villages.</b>	<b>One planning application permitted outside settlement boundaries contrary to the policy framework.</b>	<b>1</b>		
<p><b>Commentary:</b>  Although two applications were consented they were fully assessed against the policy framework and whilst they represent technical departures from policy, they were limited to exceptional circumstances in line with the target for this monitoring indicator. Overall development is being directed towards the most sustainable places within the defined settlement boundaries. The implementation of policy has positive impacts on the SA objective of maintaining and enhancing the quality and distinctiveness of the landscape, townscape and seascape.</p>				

## Summary of Findings

- 4.8 As stated in paragraph 4.6, the LDP SA Report identified 8 key issues for monitoring, that are related to the delivery of sustainable development and well-being of communities, where the implementation of the LDP will have the most significant likely effects.

The tables above set out the results from the first, second and third years of monitoring the implementation of the LDP. A summary of the outcomes against each of the issues is set out below:

- *Loss of habitats and species (biodiversity)*

- 4.9 LDP policies seek to maintain and enhance the County's biodiversity resource and protected habitats and species and the monitoring has shown that the policies are being implemented effectively. The adoption of the Biodiversity and Development SPG will further aid the implementation of the policies.
- *Impact on landscape character, particularly protected landscapes*
- 4.10 Development undoubtedly can have an impact on landscape character. However, the AMR indicates that there has been no detrimental impact within the County, particularly protected landscapes, during the monitoring period; and the LDP policies are being implemented effectively.
- *Impact on the cultural and historic environment, particularly the Welsh language and archaeology*
- 4.11 The AMR indicates that there has been no detrimental impact on the County's cultural and historic environment during the monitoring period and the LDP policies are being implemented effectively, including with regard to the Welsh Language.
- *Air pollution, particularly with regard to increased vehicular emissions as a result of new development through the AQMA and City Centre*
- 4.12 The analysis has shown that the LDP policies are being implemented correctly and should be having a generally positive impact on air quality.
- *Increased development in flood risk areas, particularly with regard to the City Centre and waterfront destinations*
- 4.13 The analysis has shown that the LDP policies are being implemented correctly and should be having a generally positive impact with regard to avoiding development in flood risk areas.
- *The provision of affordable housing to meet local needs, particularly in rural areas.*
- 4.14 The indicators demonstrate the levels of affordable housing being secured and delivered through the planning system. Overall, throughout the County housing (of all tenures) is being delivered, though the volume is less than anticipated. Planning permission for affordable housing in rural areas has been granted within the monitoring period, thereby helping local people stay within their communities. Construction has commenced on 60% of the total units anticipated to be delivered across the 6 allocated H5 sites within Gower and the Gower Fringe but overall the level of affordable rural housing was less than anticipated.
- *The provision of necessary social and community infrastructure and highway and transport improvements, to facilitate the delivery of SDAs as*

*required by the masterplanning principles to deliver sustainable and cohesive communities.*

4.15 The indicators demonstrate the levels of infrastructure being secured and delivered through the planning system to help deliver sustainable and cohesive communities. A range of community facilities and social infrastructure have been permitted as part of permissions granted on SDAs, helping to facilitate sustainable and cohesive communities.

- *Increase employment and economic activity throughout the County as a result of the economic strategy which underlines the Plan.*

4.16 The amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 34.2% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement. This will have a general positive impact on the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea's role as a regional economic driver. It will help contribute to a prosperous economic outlook and sustainable economy.

## Chapter 5. Conclusions and Recommendations

### Maintaining an Up to Date Development Plan

- 5.1 This is the third AMR of the Swansea LDP (AMR 3), and monitors the third full year in which the Plan has been adopted and in operation.
- 5.2 Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a requirement to keep their development plans up to date and consider the need for review. National legislation<sup>10</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption to ensure the LDP and supporting evidence is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions.
- 5.3 **This report has identified that a statutory review of the Swansea LDP is required to commence by February 2023 at the latest in order to meet the 4 year review requirement. On this basis, irrespective of the findings of this report with regard to individual indicators, a review needs to be commenced of the current adopted LDP.** The first stage of that review is the preparation of a Review Report, which is required to determine the type of procedure to be followed in preparing the Replacement Swansea LDP.

### Review of LDP Monitoring

- 5.4 A review has been undertaken of changes affecting the context in which the Plan operates (see Chapter 2) in 2021-22. The AMR identifies various national planning policy and guidance changes affecting the planning context of the LDP, including:
- The implications of the amendments to TAN 15
  - Welsh Development Quality Requirements 2021 (WDQR 2021) for all affordable housing
  - A new LHMA methodology and toolkit
  - Net Zero Wales
  - WG changes to address the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets
- 5.5 The COVID 19 pandemic remains a factor in the monitoring for this year. The pandemic has had a significant impact on some of the activities being monitored. For example while traffic flows have increased from low levels during the height of the pandemic, traffic patterns remain markedly altered from pre pandemic habits. The impacts are described at the relevant points throughout this document. COVID recovery will need to be taken into account in the preparation the Replacement LDP.

- 5.6 The LDP Monitoring Framework is based around the Strategic Policies of the Plan, with indicators to measure the effectiveness of the policies and the progress in delivering allocations and infrastructure.
- 5.7 Overall, the majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation and are shown as green. There are however, some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes that are not being achieved, particularly those relating to housing and employment land delivery, and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches. This indicates that these policies are not functioning as intended. In these instances the monitoring has confirmed that these issues in particular will need to be addressed as part of the statutory 4 year Plan review that is now required to be undertaken to inform the preparation of the Replacement LDP. In these instances the monitoring has recommended actions for the review of a particular policy (e.g. in relation to policies on specific strategic site allocations (in some cases this is to reflect that the site now has planning consent and so needs to be shown as a commitment rather than an allocation) and for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision). It has also highlighted issues to be taken account of more generally in the statutory 4 year review of the whole Plan, including having regard to indicators that suggest that the Plan is not delivering the anticipated levels of housing growth to meet the

requirements over the Plan period. Table 7 summarises the outcome for all the indicators.

**Table 7: LDP Monitoring Summary for 2021-22 – AMR 3**

Assessment	Action	Number of Indicators
Indicators suggest that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review	Continue Monitoring (Green)	95
Indicators suggest that the Plan Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner.	Training Required (Blue)	0
Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan	SPG required (Purple)	0
Indicators suggest the Plan Policies are not being effective as originally expected.	Further investigation/ research required (Yellow)	5
Indicators suggest that Plan policy/ies are not being implemented.	Policy Review (Orange)	18
Indicators suggest the Plan strategy is not being implemented.	Plan Review (Red)	7

- 5.8 A small number of indicators have been flagged for further investigation and research as a result of the monitoring findings. This research will be needed to inform the Replacement LDP that now needs to be prepared and includes investigating residential windfall site rates; the latest published Gypsy and

Traveller need; high level viability testing for infrastructure and affordable housing provision; and assessing up to date housing need and requirements. These are arising from the monitoring framework of indicators and will inform the research needed for the Replacement LDP that now needs to be produced, though they do not represent an exhaustive list of the research that will be needed and the LDP evidence base as a whole will need to be updated as part of the Plan review.

- 5.9 Monitoring shows that 374 homes were built in 2021-22. Housing completions have again been below the AAR in 2021-22 as was the case in 2019-20 and 2020-21 following adoption of the LDP in February 2019.
- 5.10 As in other parts of South Wales (as identified in AMRs for other urban areas - NPT, Bridgend, Cardiff, and Newport are reporting LDP housing delivery below target levels), significant timelags have been encountered from the forecasted trajectory in the LDP to deliver the identified housing requirement and no development has yet been recorded in the first 3 years of the plan on the residential led SDA sites. On the basis of the latest site forecasts, which have been formulated through engagement with developers and

site promoters, the updated forecasted supply shows that housing supply is expected to again fall below the AAR rate in the next 12 months on the basis of the sites with planning consent. It is not expected to exceed the AAR until the subsequent years of the Plan period when the SDA allocations are expected to comprehensively get underway to deliver significant numbers of new homes, with more than one outlet on these large sites, while other sites identified in the updated trajectory will have progressed through the development pipeline to begin delivery of new homes.

- 5.11 There have been highly exceptional circumstances that have influenced the above outcome over the last 2-3 years. In particular, at times within this period dwelling completions have been impacted by the COVID 19 crisis impacting on site operations (closure of sites and social distancing), while labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems are also impacting the housebuilding industry<sup>11</sup>. Further factors which have affected housebuilding are the impact of sustainable drainage requirements and increased ecology requirements which have all had to be incorporated into the masterplanning process on sites and impacted on viability and in some cases delayed deliverability.

<sup>11</sup> Survey of Small and Medium Enterprise housebuilders in the UK (HBF January 2022 press release)



- 5.12 It is important to note that delays in the delivery of housing requirements are being experienced across South Wales and this issue is not confined to Swansea. For example, the latest Cardiff AMR notes that completion rates are below targets for housing sites in their LDP which was adopted several years before the Swansea LDP. These delays are attributed to a combination of site assembly, legal and logistical factors experienced by landowners/developers along with the time required to secure the necessary planning and adoption consents. However the latest Cardiff AMR also notes that once their SDA sites started to deliver new homes, this drove a significant step change in the number of total housing completions in the County. Construction has now started on most of the Cardiff strategic housing sites and it is expected that housing completions over the remaining 4 years of the Plan period will increase significantly. In this context, \*it is important to note that development has now commenced on the first residential led Strategic Development Area in the Swansea LDP (SDA C, Land at Parc Mawr, Penllergaer), during 2022-23, which will be reported in the AMR 4.
- 5.13 As a consequence of lower than anticipated housing delivery over the initial years of the Plan, to meet the LDP housing target of 15,600 new dwellings, an annual build rate of 2,570 new homes would be needed from 2022 to 2025 in order to fully deliver the LDP housing requirement within the adopted Plan period. This level of delivery is unprecedented and would require numerous sites to come forward at the same time. It is therefore considered unlikely that the LDP housing requirement will be delivered in full during the LDP period.
- 5.14 Overall, development of some plan allocations has not progressed as quickly as originally forecasted due to a number of factors and despite the efforts of the Council. While many of the sites included in the LDP are considered to be sound and are progressing, the indicators suggest that the Plan is not being implemented. The statutory 4 year Plan Review that is now required will provide the opportunity to address these issues.
- 5.15 The review will need to reflect the significant work that has been undertaken by both applicant and LPA to progress a number of the sites to an advanced stage of the planning process, such that they are well placed to soon deliver homes on site and create excellent examples of new sustainable places, and may well become commitments in the time period before a Replacement LDP is adopted. The Review will nonetheless provide the opportunity to review the deliverability and viability of existing allocations; while at the same time also consider what other appropriate and sustainable sites could contribute to the housing supply where necessary. Any review will also need to

take into account the change in evidence of housing requirements since the LDP was adopted.

- 5.16 In terms of affordable housing, 149 affordable homes were built through the planning system in 2021-22, 113 social rented and 36 intermediate tenure, while planning consent was granted in the 12 month period for a further 254 affordable homes. Affordable housing delivery is under the level required to meet the LDP affordable housing targets and the statutory 4 year Plan review will provide the opportunity to update the evidence base with regard to affordable housing need, viability of policy targets, and identification of sites that can make a contribution to fulfilling the updated housing need target.
- 5.17 The proportion of HMOs within the HMO Management Area, as a proportion of the residential properties, has been monitored. Overall, within the HMO Management Area, HMOs were identified as comprising 24.1% of all residential properties. The percentage remains within the +/-2% range identified in the monitoring indicator. The indicator target, to ensure the number of HMOs as a proportion of the total number of residential properties within the HMO Management Area does not significantly exceed the 25% threshold, has been achieved in 2021-22.
- 5.18 In addition to the 3.29 ha consented during 2019-2020, and the 0.8 ha of total employment land granted

planning consent in 2020-21, the 2.4 ha consented in 2021-22 equates to a total of 6.5 ha or 10.8% of the overall LDP allocation of 60 ha. It should be noted that the Plan provides a higher level of employment land allocations than the identified employment land requirement of 19 ha. The allocations have been made on a range of sites for different types of investors at sustainable locations across the County, to maximise opportunities for investment and to be flexible to changes in market demand. Therefore it is also useful to note that the amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 34.2% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement.

- 5.19 Significant development at SD J is progressing and sites designated as employment land (even if not B1 use) at SD I and SD K have either been completed or are in the pipeline. By the very nature of employment development, delivery and take up of land will depend on demand from the market which will have been impacted by the COVID19 pandemic. Activity in most of the SDAs demonstrates a growing demand. There is not cause for concern in that there is no shortage of a supply of available land of different sizes and location. Nonetheless delivery has fallen below the cumulative requirement for 2 consecutive years in terms of the indicator trigger. Overall, delivery of employment development on the SDAs is behind the estimated schedule, with approximately 3.29 ha

delivered against the target of 8 ha by 2022. The statutory 4 year Plan Review will provide the opportunity to reassess the employment land requirement against the supply of potential employment land and the significant employment related development currently in the pipeline on SDAs.

- 5.20 The monitoring identifies priority transport schemes and active travel measures that have been delivered during 2021-22 and that residential development has been progressed in-line with sustainable transport principles.
- 5.21 Since adoption of the LDP and as reported in the previous AMR's due to the onset of the COVID pandemic, vehicle journey times surveys were not possible due to restrictions but also given much reduced traffic levels surveys at this time which would have created a false picture of journey times. Vehicle journey times were analysed for this AMR 3. They show a reduction on the 2014 base case which informed the LDP evidence base. Whilst this is likely due in part to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, overall daily traffic flows have largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels, however travel habits have changed significantly with a reduction in commuting trips in both morning and evening peak hours.

- 5.22 Monitoring of other policies such as design and placemaking, Green Infrastructure, Welsh language, the historic and cultural environment, tourism, transport, and safeguarding public health and natural resources has shown that they are being implemented effectively, delivering placemaking objectives and preventing inappropriate development. A small number of minor amendments and clarifications have been made (and highlighted in the relevant parts of this AMR) to monitoring indicators to reflect changes in data availability and context; or to clarify what the indicator seeks to record.

### Summary

- 5.23 This third phase of monitoring of the Swansea LDP has shown that in broad terms many of the plan policies are working effectively. The majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation, thereby providing an indication that the LDP is delivering many significant benefits to communities across the County. There are however, some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes that are not being achieved, primarily those relating primarily to housing delivery and employment related development and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches. There is a particular issue with time lags being experienced in the delivery of allocated sites. This indicates that the relevant policies may not be functioning as intended and as a consequence,

this is undermining the ability of the LDP to fully deliver upon the growth requirements. The statutory 4 year Plan review which is now required will provide the opportunity to address these issues.. The AMR has also identified that the LDP policy on provision of land for mineral supply requires review; and that policies be updated to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk. Changes in national, regional and local policy and circumstances also need to be reflected. As well as Future Wales, these changes include the new regional planning agendas, the emerging proposals of the SW Wales Metro, changes to use classes on types of residential use, and the latest Local Wellbeing Plan context. The 4 year Plan review should be seen as an opportunity to review these policies and to gain an understanding of any reasons why some policies have not been implemented as expected.

- 5.24 Due to the time that has elapsed since the LDP was adopted in 2019, the Swansea LDP now needs to be the subject of the statutory four year full review cycle in-line with Government regulations. As such all aspects of the Plan will need to be assessed to consider if they remain sound and fit for purpose. It is important therefore that the Council progresses with the statutory review of the LDP, to address in particular the policy issues highlighted by the monitoring undertaken to date. The next stage of Plan review requires the preparation of a 'Review Report'

to set out and explain the extent of any changes required to the Plan. In doing so, the Report will identify whether a full or short form procedure will be followed.

- 5.25 The content of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports, including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring findings, will be essential and important components to take into account at the review stage.
- 5.26 Given the current Swansea LDP (2010-25) will cease to be operational as a statutory development plan on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 it is imperative that work on the Replacement LDP commences in 2023.

## Appendix 1: Housing Sites (10+ Units) Schedules The Timing and Phasing of Allocations

SHPZ	LDP ref	Site name	Summary planning/build status	Capacity	Time period for pre-application / PAC	Time between submission of planning application and determination	Time taken from planning consent to discharge of conditions to enable construction	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
Central	H1.01	Remainder at former Vetch Field (Phase 2), Glamorgan Street, Swansea	Allocation	40	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	0
Central	H1.02	Llwyn y Bryn Campus, Walter Road, Swansea	Allocation and outline consent	200	1	1	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200
Central	H1.03	Townhill Campus, Townhill Road, Townhill	Under construction	160	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	106	14
East	H1.04	Land between Bog Road and Cefn Hengoed Road, Llansamlet	Allocation	70	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	40
East	H1.05	Land at Upper Bank, Pentrechwyth*	Under construction	256	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	34	8	23	35	32	19	35	56	14	0	0	0
East	H1.06	Land at Jersey Road opposite numbers 16-38, Pentrechwyth	Allocation	20	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
East	H1.07	Land at rear of 17-93 Carmel Road, Winch Wen	Allocation	65	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	35
East	H1.08	Land at Ty Draw Road and Llanerch Road, Bonymaen	Allocation and pre application in progress	55	0.1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	30	15
East	H1.09	Land at Northern End of Graigola Road, Glais	Allocation	25	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
East	H1.10	Land at Tanycoed Road, Clydach	Allocation and pre application in progress	20	0.1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
East	H1.11	Land at Ramsey Road, Clydach	Allocation	60	1	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	40
East	H1.12	Talycoppa Farm, Llansamlet	Allocation	150	1	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	50

East	H1.13	Land at Midland Place, Llansamlet	Allocation and pre application in progress	30	0.5	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
East	H1.14	Heol Ddu Farm, Birchgrove	Built	23	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
East	H1.15	Gwernlwynchwyth House, Llansamlet	Allocation	50	1	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	35
East	H1.16	Land at Frederick Place, Llansamlet	Allocation	20	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0
East	H1.17	Former Four Seasons Club, Trallwn	Built	41	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0
East	H1.18	Land at David Williams Terrace, Port Tennant	Allocation	15	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
GNW	H1.19	Land east of Pontarddulais Road, Gorseinon	Allocation	90	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	40
GNW	H1.20	Parc Melin Mynach, Gorseinon	Built	36	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNW	H1.21	Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Road, Gowerton	Under construction	99	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	54	45	0
Page 704 GNW	H1.22	Land at West Street (former Gorseinon Business Park), Gorseinon	Allocation and pre application in progress	20	0.1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0
GNW	H1.23	Land at Carmel Road and Bryntirion Road, Pontlliw	Allocation and full application being considered	100	na	0.3	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	50	40	0
GNW	H1.24	Land at the Poplars, Pontlliw	Allocation and full planning consent	12	na	na	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
GNW	H1.25	Beili Glas, Glebe Road, Loughor	Allocation and full planning consent	98	na	na	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	48	12
GNW	H1.26	Land at Former Penllergaer Civic Offices, Penllergaer	Built	80	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	50	0	0	0	0	0	0
GNW	H1.27	Land north of Llewellyn Road, Penllergaer	Allocation	50	2	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50
GNW	H1.28	Remainder at Land East of Bolgoed Brickworks, Bolgoed Road, Pontarddulais	Allocation	50	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	30
GNW	H1.29	Land east of Carreg Teilo, Pontarddulais	Allocation	30	2	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
GNW	H1.30	Land at Tyrisha Farm, Grovesend	Under construction	60	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	30	0	0	0

GNW	H1.31	Land off Brynafon Road and Gower View Road, Penyrheol	Under construction	144	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33	44	67	0
GNW	H1.32	South Of Glebe Road, Loughor	Under construction	115	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	48	24	27	0	0	0
North	H1.33	Former Walkers Factory, Pontarddulais Road, Cadle	Allocation	100	1	0.7	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	70
North	H1.34	Land adjacent to 114 Brithwen Road, Waunarlywydd	Allocation and larger parcel full consent	15	na	na	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	6
North	H1.35	Land adjacent to Cockett Pond	Allocation	50	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25

SHPZ	LDP ref	Site name	Summary planning/build status	Capacity	Time period for pre-application / PAC	Time between submission of planning application and determination	Time taken from planning consent to discharge of conditions to enable construction	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
North	H1.36	Penrhos Place, Gendros	Allocation and pre application in progress	60	0.1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	30	10
North	H1.37	Manselton Primary School, Manor Road, Manselton	Allocation and pre application	30	0.5	0.7	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	0
North	H1.38	Land at Mynydd Gamllywd Road, Morriston	Allocation	95	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	45
North	H1.39	Land at rear of Glynollen Primary School, Morriston	Allocation and pre application in progress	35	0.2	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0
North	H1.40	Brayley Road, Morriston	Allocation and pre application	15	na	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0
North	H1.41	Land at Cadle, Fforestfach	Allocation	50	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	25
North	H1.42	Land between Eppynt Road and Bettws Road, Penlan	Allocation	10	1	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
Gower	H5.01	Land at Monksland Road, Scurlage	Allocation and pre application in progress	25	0.2	0.5	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0
Gower Fringe	H5.02	Land to the east of Gowerton Road, Three Crosses	Allocation	15	1	0.7	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0

Gower Fringe	H5.03	Land adjoining Timmyydd Road, Three Crosses	Allocation and pre application	20	na	0.7	0.8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	5
Gower Fringe	H5.04	Land adjoining Pennard Drive, Pennard	Under construction	70	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	43	26	0	0	0	0
West	H5.05	Land at Summerland Lane, Newton	Built	61	na	na	na	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	38	6	0	0	0	0	0
West	H5.06	Land at Higher Lane, Langland	Allocation and full planning consent	31	na	na	0.3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	21	0	0	0

								2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
GNW	SD 1.A	South of Glanffrwyd Road, Pontarddulais	Allocation and pre application	720	na	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	62
GNW	SD 1.B	North of Garden Village	Full planning consent	705	na	na	0.6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	79	100
GNW	SD 1.C	South of A4240, Penllerager	Full planning consent	850	na	na	0.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	80	100	90
North	SD.1.D	West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderyn	RM application being determined	1950	na	0.25	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	120	130
North	SD 1.E	North of Clasemont Road, Morriston	Allocation and pre application	600	na	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	40	100	80
West	SD 1.F	Cefn Coed Hospital, Tycoch*	Allocation and pre application	500	na	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	31	13	0	0	20	100	80
GNW	SD 1.G	Northwest of M4 Junction 46, Llangyfelach	Allocation and outline application being determined	800	na	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	60	80
North	SD 1.H	North of Waunarlwydd / Fforestfach	Allocation and pre application	1319	na	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	126	120
East	SD.1.I	Swansea Vale	Allocation and pre application	450	0.5	0.8	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	75
Central	SD.1.J	Central Area and Waterfront	Multiple sites	906				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52	19	100	100	200	200
East	SD 1.K	Remainder of Fabian Way Corridor	Multiple sites	525				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0	0	85	133	90





Central	Land south of Castle Lane, Swansea	30	0	0	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0				
Central	Leonard Charles Superstore, 40 Oxford Street, Swansea	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	0	0				
Central	Llais Tawe, New Cut Road, Swansea	108	0	15	15	47	31	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Central	Pantycelyn Hotel, Oystermouth Road, Swansea	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0	0				
Central	Park Buildings, 2 Park St, Swansea	24	0	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0				
Central	Site K Swansea Point, Maritime Quarter	43	0	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Central	St Marks Church, Lion St, Waun Wen	13	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Central	The Boat Yard, Adjacent to Fishmarket Quay, Trawler Road, Maritime Quarter	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	0				
Central	Thornton Furnishings, 25 Beach Street, Swansea	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0				
Central	Urban Village 212 - 222 High St, Swansea	75	0	0	75	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
East	Clydach Hospital, Quarr Road, Clydach	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0				
East	Copper Quarter, The Riverbank, Pentrechwyth	283	0	60	60	43	35	42	43	0	0	0	0				
East	Emily Site, Land South Of Heol Dulais, Birchgrove	148	0	0	0	0	12	66	66	4	0	0	0				
East	Former Teacher's Centre, Land at Carlton Road (Gellionen Road), Clydach	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	7	4	0	0				

East	Globe Theatre, High Street, Clydach	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0	0	0	0	0
East	Land Adjacent To 102 Wern Terrace Port Tennant Swansea	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0					
East	Land At Lon Brynawel, Llansamlet	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
East	Plots D8 and E1 Langdon Road, SA1 Swansea Waterfront	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0	0					
East	Plots E2 and E3A Langdon Road, SA1 Swansea Waterfront	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	55	0	0	0					
East	Fields 3800, 5774, 5661 & 3996 at Heol Las, Birchgrove	132	83	28	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Former Clydach Health Centre	14	0	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					

SHPZ	Site name	Capacity	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
East	Former Community Centre, Pen Isa Coed, St Thomas	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Land Adj 205 Birchgrove Rd, Birchgrove	34	0	0	34	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Land at Parc Yr Helig, off Ffordd y Bryn, Birchgrove	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0
East	Land off Pant y Blawd Rd, Llansamlet	23	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Margaret St Nursery, St Thomas	19	0	0	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Plot D10 SA1	48	0	0	15	15	18	0	0	0	0	0	0					

East	Plot D5A SA1	69	0	0	69	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Plot D7, SA1 Swansea Waterfront	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	16	0					
East	Plot D9, SA1 Swansea Waterfront	30	0	0	15	9	6	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Remainder Marcroft Works, St Thomas	146	0	60	72	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	St Thomas Primary School, St Thomas	44	0	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
East	Woodlands Country Club, Clydach	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	104c High St, Gorseinon	26	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	Brynteg Chapel, Brynteg Road, Gorseinon	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0					
GNW	Carreg Teilo, Pontarddulais	33	17	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	Clayton Court, Pontarddulais	27	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	Clos Cwrt y Carne, Penyrheol	95	0	0	0	0	0	6	38	51	0	0	0					
GNW	Land at Gorseinon College, Heol Cae Tynewydd, Loughor	33	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	Land at Heol Pentrebach, Gorseinon	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0					
GNW	Land at TA Centre, Park Road, Gorseinon	37	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	37	0	0					
GNW	Land off Brynafon Road and Gower View Road, Penyrheol	30	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
GNW	Land Off Rhydypandy Road & Mynydd Gelli Wastad Road, Morriston	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0	0

GNW	Land rear of 16 Frampton Road, Gorseinon	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0				
GNW	Land south of Former Cae Duke Colliery, Loughor	106	0	0	0	0	19	74	13	0	0	0	0				
GNW	Land South of Loughor Rd, Kingsbridge	111	0	0	19	66	26	0	0	0	0	0	0				
GNW	Remainder of Bryngwyn Works, Gorseinon	127	37	73	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
GNW	Remainder Parc Penderi, Penlgeraer	215	0	55	83	33	44	0	0	0	0	0	0				
GNW	Trinity Street (Phases II and III), Pontarddulais	84	30	19	0	0	0	0	10	9	16	0	0				
Gower Fringe	Land At Former Swn Y Mor Village Inn, Burry House, Burry View / Benson Road, Penclawdd	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0
North	Colliers Way (Former Penplas Centre), Penderry	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	0	18	0	0	0
North	Former Cwmbwrla Primary School, Stepney Street, Cwmbwrla	49	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	0				
North	Former Pines Country Club, Treboeth	28	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	0	0	0	0
North	Land adjacent to Arrfyn Primary School, Penlan	21							0	21	0	0	0				
North	Land at Heol y Fran, Morriston	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	0	0	0				
North	Land North of Ffordd Cynore, Fforestfach	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				

SHPZ	Site name	Capacity	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025
North	Land north of Travellers Well Public House, Carmarthen Road, Cwmdy	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0					
North	Land off Brynffordd, Cockett	73	0	48	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
North	Land off Cwmgelli Drive, Treboeth	26	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
North	Morfydd House, Morfydd Street, Morrision	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0					
West	81 Gower Road, Sketty	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	0	0					
West	Former Bible College, Derwen Fawr Road, Derwen Fawr	18	0	0	0	0	0	8	10	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Emmanuel School, Derwen Fawr	30	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Famous Bear Public House, Mumbles	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Found Out Inn, Killan Road, Dunvant	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Glynn Vivian Nursing Home, Newton	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Langland Court Hotel, Langland	13	0	0	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Former Sketty Primary School, Tycoch	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0	0	0					
West	Furzeland Drive, Sketty Park	43	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	0					
West	Land at Bethany Lane, West Cross	15	0	0	0	0	8	7	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Land at Bryn Derwen, Tycoch	54	0	0	37	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
West	Moorland Ave, West Cross	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					

North	Phase 2, Middle Road, Ravenhill**	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Central	2-3 Tontine Street, Swansea	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
Central	Former Ffynone Nursing Home & Rafa Club, Ffynone Road, Uplands	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0
Central	Former Swansea Boys Club Berwick Terrace Mount Pleasant	23	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	0	0
Central	Russell House, 31 Russell Street, Swansea	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0
Central	Windsor Lodge Hotel, Mount Pleasant	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
East	Ebenezer Chapel, Frederick Place, Llansamlet	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
East	Former Smelting Building, Phoebe Road, Copper Quarter	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0
East	Land Adjacent To 77 Trallwn Road, Llansamlet	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
East	Land at Bryn Hawddgar, Clydach	70	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49	21	0
GNW	Former Walter's Yard, Pontlliw	67	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	30	27	0
GNW	Land at Cambrian Yard, Pontarddulais	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	31	0	0	0
GNW	Pencefnarda Farm, Gorseinon	44	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44	0
North	Brithwen Road, Waunarlwydd	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	16	0
North	Goole Road, Fforestfach	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	0
West	4 Langland Road Mumbles Swansea	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	0
West	Former Nursing Home, 6 Langland Road, Langland	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	0

West	Land At Vivian Road/Gower Road and 96, 96a, 114 & 116 Eversley Road, Sketty	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0
West	Mumbles Pier and Foreshore, Mumbles	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0
North	77-78 Woodfield Street and 51 Crown Street, Morriston	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0
East	Land Off Felin Fran Felin Fran Birchgrove	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	0
GNW	Land between 58-76 Goppa Road, Pontarddulais	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0
North	15 Cave Street, Cwmdru	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0
West	Land adjoining 104 Killan Road, Dunvant	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
GNW	Land at Bolgoed Road, Pontarddulais	81	40	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0
Central	89-95 Heol y Gors, Townhill, Swansea**	21	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East	1 Pentrechwyth Road, Bonymaen	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
East	19-29 Bethel Road, Llansamlet	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
GNW	Land formerly known as the Gardens, Rear of 188 St Teilo St, Pontarddulais	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0
GNW	Land off George Manning Way, Gowerton	41	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0
GNW	Land to the side of 28 Christopher Rise, Pontlliw	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0
Gower Fringe	Land rear of 702 Gower Road, Upper Killay	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	4	0	0	0



North	88-89 Woodfield Street, Morriston	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
North	Land at former Cwmrhydyceirw Quarry, Morriston	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	37	47	80	80	46	0
North	Land North Of Rhodfa Fadog, Cwmrhydyceirw	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	0	0	0
North	Land Off Hill View Crescent and Beacons View Road, Clase	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	0
West	Hendrefoilan Student Village, Hendrefoilan Drive, Killay	300	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	18	20	0	0	0	60	57	70	74

# Swansea Local Development Plan Review Report (Draft)

January 2023

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## Executive Summary

### Purpose of this Review Report

1. The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The LDP sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land within the county boundary for the period up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.
2. Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a statutory duty to keep their development plans up to date and to undertake a formal review of the LDP at the required time. The Council's Third Annual Monitoring Report (AMR 3), covering the period 2021-22, highlights that **national legislation<sup>1</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the Swansea LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption.** This is in order to ensure the LDP, and its supporting evidence, is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions. Given the Swansea LDP was adopted in February 2019, **the statutory requirement to commence a review of the Swansea LDP is by February 2023 at the latest.**
3. AMR 3 indicated that some of the monitoring indicators relating to policies of the Swansea LDP are under performing, and that the statutory 4 year LDP review provides an opportunity to address these areas. Key strategic planning issues in this respect are those relating to the delivery of new housing on some LDP allocations, and the delivery of new pitches required to meet the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers.
4. Having regard to the findings set out in the AMR regarding certain monitoring indicators, and the impending need for the statutory LDP review process to be underway on the Swansea LDP by February 2023 in any event, **the recommendation of AMR 3 was that a LDP Review Report should be prepared in-line with the process prescribed by Welsh Government guidance and legislation.**
5. The primary functions of a Review Report are to determine the appropriate procedural route for replacement Plan preparation, and to identify key issues to be considered when taking the LDP process forward.

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<sup>1</sup> Required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 69(1)) and LDP Regulation 41(1)

### Revision procedure for replacement Swansea LDP

6. Fundamentally there are two revision routes available to choose from when considering how to produce a replacement LDP, which are:
  - Undertake a ‘Full Revision’ process, following the same procedures as used in preparing the current adopted LDP; or
  - Undertake a ‘Short Form Revision’ (SFR) procedure, where the parameters to be considered are very much more focussed and limited in scope.
7. SFR procedures are only appropriate where the parameters to be considered are very focussed and limited in scope, and where these do not go to the heart of a Plan. For example a SFR procedure does not apply in the case of review of the scale and distribution of growth. In addition, and crucially, the SFR excludes the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation on revised proposals. Consultation and engagement on key strategic planning issues, such as growth requirements, is an important element of Plan formation process and should not be foregone without clear justification.
8. This Report highlights that, whilst much of the Swansea LDP is operating well, there is a clear need to update the evidence base of the Plan. This is due to the timescale elapsed since LDP adoption, but more importantly the significant material changes in the strategic planning and societal contexts that have arisen during this period. This includes a need to review the scale of population growth going forward in the light of emerging data, which could in turn require a change to the scale of the housing and employment growth strategy for Swansea. Furthermore, while the existing spatial strategy is considered to be sound, the way in which it is delivered will need to be reviewed against significant material changes since the Plan’s adoption. This includes the relevant policies and parameters set out in Future Wales - the National Development Plan published post LDP adoption.
9. This report also highlights there is a need to consider whether the findings of the latest AMR, in respect of delays incurred on delivering certain LDP allocated sites, necessitate the identification of any new allocations to deliver any updated housing requirement. This would require a detailed review of undelivered existing allocations and the individual merits and deliverability of other allocations. The need for such a process reflects the requirements of PPW (ed11), which states there must be sufficient sites suitable for the full range of housing types to address the identified needs of communities. This necessitates an update to the evidence of housing needs. An important part of ensuring a sufficient range of sustainable and deliverable sites are available, is providing an opportunity for all



sectors and types of house-builder to contribute to delivering the housing requirement, including nationals, regionals, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), registered social landlords (RSLs), and the custom and self-build sector.

10. Based on the review of the adopted Swansea LDP undertaken for this Report, and the conclusions set out at the end of each chapter of the Report, it is clear that the Full Revision procedure would be the most appropriate form of revision process for the Swansea LDP. This would mean that a Replacement Swansea LDP would be prepared from 2023, following the same full procedures as used in preparing the current adopted LDP. Preparation of a Replacement LDP will ensure that effective local decision making in planning can continue, in-line with the plan-led approach in Wales required by Welsh Government.
11. **In summary, this Review Report concludes it is necessary for a Full Review procedure to be undertaken for the Swansea LDP, to enable the LPA to respond to the strategic issues and key policy matters raised in this Report, and to fully update the evidence base on which the LDP is based.**

### **Changes to Background Evidence and Context**

12. Various elements of the LDP evidence base are highlighted in this report as necessary to be updated.

The report highlights that any changes to this evidence may need to be reflected in amendments to current LDP policies, including with regard to: the need for, and provision of, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; affordable housing need; high level financial viability of delivering affordable housing and physical infrastructure requirements in the different parts of the County; retail need and provision; transport infrastructure impacts of allocations; the potential need for provision of areas for mineral extraction; and to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

13. Changes in national, regional and local policy and circumstances will need to be reflected. As well as Future Wales this includes the new regional planning agendas, the emerging proposals of the SW Wales Metro, and the latest Local Wellbeing Plan context.
14. This report has also identified that opportunities can be taken to update policies that, although largely working effectively based on the AMR, could benefit from wording changes in order to refine the Plan. This report highlights such instances but does not detail every opportunity and the LPA will continue to review and refine through the Replacement LDP process building on evidence gained from experience of using the policies since Plan adoption.

15. **It should be noted that this Review Report is not intended to detail the changes that will be made to the LDP as these will only be determined through the formal preparation process of the Replacement LDP.**

#### **Joint LPA Working Opportunities.**

16. WG Guidance<sup>2</sup> states that, for LDP reviews, LPAs should consider and demonstrate they have exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base. Collaboration is a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and an integral part of the LDP soundness tests (i.e. Does the Plan Fit - Is it compatible with the plans of neighbouring authorities?).
17. The LPA has explored the options for working jointly with other LPAs on the Development Plan, but due to the significant differences that exist in terms of adjoining Authorities in terms of producing their Replacement LDP timelines, **it is concluded that the most appropriate option at this time is for the Council to undertake the Swansea LDP review on an individual LPA basis.** Notwithstanding this, wherever possible, the LPA will continue to work collaboratively with other neighbouring LPAs on producing a consistent and coherent evidence base across the region (notable elements of joint work have already commenced on some key evidence

studies) and work with other LPAs in the future to prepare a Strategic Development Plan (SDP).

#### **Consulting on the Draft Review Report**

18. Stakeholders will make a valuable contribution in helping to identify and clarify what issues need to be considered in the Replacement LDP, how effective the existing LDP has been in terms of delivery and the extent of likely changes required. On this basis, it is proposed to undertake an appropriate consultation of the draft Review Report with specific and general consultation bodies as recommended in the WG Guidance<sup>3</sup> while also making it available more widely for comments from the general public.
19. The LPA will review the consultation responses received and consider the potential implications for both the content of the LDP and the proposed review procedure and any appropriate amendments will be made in the final Review Report. The final Report will then be recommended to Council Members to approve for submission to Welsh Government, which will then confirm the form and type of review route that will be followed in preparing the Replacement LDP.
20. The final Review Report will be a key part of the evidence base underpinning the form and content of the

<sup>2</sup> Development Plans Manual Edition 3. Welsh Government (2020)

<sup>3</sup> Development Plans Manual Edition 3. Welsh Government (2020)

Replacement LDP and ultimately will be one of the documents that will be submitted to the Inspector for examination.

21. Council Members will also be asked to approve a process of consultation and engagement (with the general public and key stakeholders) on a **draft Delivery Agreement** (DA). This DA will set out the draft timetable for the preparation of the Replacement LDP, together

with the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) detailing when, and how the Council will consult on its preparation and with whom. This will provide the public and stakeholders with a clear guide of when there will be opportunities to input into the process.

# Chapter 1. Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on 28th February 2019. The LDP sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land within the county boundary for the period up to January 1st 2026.
- 1.1.2. Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a statutory duty to keep their development plans up to date and to undertake a formal review of the LDP at the required interval. The Council's Third Annual Monitoring Report (AMR 3), covering the period 2021-22, highlighted that national legislation<sup>4</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the Swansea LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption. This is in order to ensure the LDP, and its supporting evidence, is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions. Given the Swansea LDP was adopted in February 2019, the statutory requirement to commence a review of the Swansea LDP is by February 2023 at the latest.

## 1.2 Purpose of this Report

- 1.2.1 LPAs that are undertaking a review of their adopted LDP are required to submit a Review Report of their findings to Welsh Government within six months of commencing the review process. This document provides a draft Review Report based on the review of the adopted Swansea LDP, to be subject to stakeholder and public engagement that will inform a final version to be submitted to Welsh Government.
- 1.2.2 The primary functions of a Review Report are to determine the appropriate procedural route and identify key issues to be considered when taking the existing LDP forward.
- 1.2.3 There are two revision routes available to choose from when considering how to revise an LDP. Firstly there is a Full Revision of the Plan which follows the same full procedures as were used in preparing the adopted LDP. The alternative option is a Short Form Revision (SFR) procedure where the parameters to be considered are very much more focused and limited in

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<sup>4</sup> Required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 69(1)) and LDP Regulation 41(1)

scope. Welsh Government guidance<sup>5</sup> states that the SFR procedure should only be considered if the Review Report conclusions do not:

- Result in the existing strategy to be considered unsound or indicate changes to the strategy or any part of it are required
- Result in a plan, or parts of the plan, becoming distinctively different to the adopted plan
- Propose changes that are of a significant scope, number and scale

1.2.4 In particular it is noted that the Guidance states that through the SFR procedure, the strategy in the adopted LDP clearly remains appropriate when moving forward, in essence it is 'sound'. Based on this premise, i.e. that the strategy remains valid, the SFR procedure specifically excludes Regulation 15 and the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation on the scale and distribution of growth. **Fundamentally therefore, any potential changes to the scale or distribution of growth are likely to preclude the SFR procedure.**

1.2.5 In-line with WG Guidance<sup>6</sup> this Review Report provides a report on the review and sets out the following:

- What information has been considered to inform plan review and why
- How the findings impact on the vision, aims, objectives, and strategy implementation
- A review of each plan topic area clearly identifying what needs to change and which parts of the evidence base require updating to support the changes
- The implications for those parts of the plan not proposed to be amended in terms of coherence and effectiveness of the plan as a whole
- A reconsideration of the SA/SEA and HRA
- Opportunities to prepare Joint LDPs/Joint LDPLites with neighbouring LPAs and for cross-boundary working; and
- Conclusions on why the full, or short form review procedure is to be followed.

**1.2.6 It should be noted that this Review Report is not intended to detail all the changes that will be made to the Swansea LDP, as these will only be determined through the formal preparation process for the Replacement LDP.**

<sup>5</sup> Development Plans manual Edition 3, Welsh Government (2020)

<sup>6</sup> Development Plans Manual Edition 3. Welsh Government (2020)

### 1.3 Structure of this Report

- 1.3.1 The remainder of this report is structured as follows in order to fulfil the requirements set out in national guidance.
- 1.3.2 **Chapter 2** summarises the information that has been considered to inform plan review and why this is relevant, including key national, regional and local contextual changes that have occurred since LDP adoption. It also summarises the main findings of the three LDP AMRs including the SA monitoring.
- 1.3.3 **Chapter 3** reviews the LDP evidence base and which parts of it require updating.
- 1.3.4 **Chapter 4** sets out how the findings impact on the LDP Vision, Aims and Objectives, implementation of the Strategy, and the Policies and Proposals in order to inform the review process. It includes a concise review of each plan topic area, and implications for any parts of the Plan not proposed to be amended in terms of coherence and effectiveness of the plan as a whole. This chapter also considers the SA/SEA and HRA.
- 1.3.5 **Chapter 5** considers and explains opportunities for joint working with other LPAs.
- 1.3.6 **Chapter 6** makes clear conclusions on whether a Full or Short Form Review procedure is required.

- 1.3.7 The **Appendix** to this report provides some detailed supporting tables which are cross referenced to the main report chapters.

## Chapter 2. Contextual Changes and Other Factors Informing LDP Review

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This chapter summarises the new information that has been considered to inform plan review and why this is relevant, focusing on the key national, regional and local contextual changes that have occurred since LDP adoption. It also summarises the main findings of the three LDP AMRs that have been produced, including the results of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring.

### 2.2 Contextual Changes

2.2.1 As reported in the AMR, since adoption of the Swansea LDP there have been a range of changes of significance relating to the planning context within which the LDP operates. These are summarised below.

#### ***National Planning Context***

2.2.2 **Future Wales - the National Plan 2040** – This major new national policy document was published in February 2021 and forms the national tier of the Development Plan. It sets the strategic direction for development in Wales to 2040 and addresses key national priorities through the planning system. This

national framework will be built on by SDPs at a regional level and LDPs at local authority level. SDPs and LDPs are required to be in conformity with Future Wales and must be kept up to date to ensure they and Future Wales work together effectively.

2.2.3 **Planning Policy Wales (PPW) updates** – The two most recent updates to PPW have altered the national framework for development plan formation from that which applied when the current Swansea LDP was produced. Edition 10 was published in late 2018 just before the LDP was adopted and represented a complete re-working of national planning policy to take into account the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working. It promoted the concept of placemaking within the planning system and set out the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes. The LDP was examined against PPW edition 10 and found to be in general conformity. The latest revision of PPW, edition 11, was published in February 2021, and involved revisions to align it with Future Wales and to take into account the socio-economic duty and impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic (see section below). It also makes policy changes to housing supply monitoring, affordable housing led sites and development quality standards, local energy planning, transport and active

travel. The Replacement LDP will need to be prepared with close reference to this updated national policy framework.

#### 2.2.4 **Development Plans Manual, Edition 3 (March 2020)**

- This detailed new Manual provides updated guidance for practitioners involved in the preparation and implementation of development plans. It is to be read alongside PPW and other relevant legislation and guidance, and contains practical guidance on how to prepare, monitor and revise a development plan. The updated Manual will be used to guide preparation of the Replacement LDP.

#### 2.2.5 **Changes to Technical Advice Notes (TAN) -**

- **Revocation of TAN 1 Joint Housing Land Availability Studies (March 2020)** – this reflected changes to PPW which removed the 5-year housing land supply policy requirement.
- **Revocation of TAN 8 Planning for Renewable Energy (February 2021)** – this reflected the publication of Future Wales which identifies pre-assessed areas for wind energy.
- **TAN 11 Air Quality, Noise and Soundscape** - is being reviewed to bring it up to date and into line with PPW, the Noise and Soundscape Action Plan for Wales and the Clean Air Plan for Wales. TAN 11 was published in 1997 and only covered noise.
- **Technical Advice Note (TAN) 15: development, flooding and coastal erosion (made available**

**September 2021)** - this will also replace TAN 14: Coastal Planning, and will be accompanied by a new Flood Map for Planning (FMfP) to replace the existing Development Advice Map. The new TAN introduces important changes to the way flood and coastal erosion risks are considered in the planning process to ensure the planning system recognises the threat of, and takes action to adapt to, the likely effects of climate change on flood risk and coastal erosion. The risks associated with climate change will be built into planning policies and decisions by using the new FMfP, which includes flood risk zones showing future risk under a climate change scenario.

In November 2021, the Welsh Minister confirmed that the coming into force of the new TAN 15 and FMfP would be suspended until 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 to enable LPAs to fully consider the impact of the climate change projections on their respective areas. The Minister also required every LPA to complete work to review the Strategic Flood Consequences Assessments (SFCA) for their area. The new TAN 15 and FMfP will apply to the Replacement LDP process and the reviewed SFCA will inform the LDP's strategy, policies and proposals. When drafting policies on flood risk the focus will be on site specific details and locally specific approaches, as there is no need to repeat national policies. The Replacement LDP will also



need to complement the local flood strategy, by identifying key risks and setting out where flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes are to be located.

**2.2.6 LDP end dates Letter (September 2020)** – This Welsh Minister letter clarifies that the provisions within the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 specifying the period to which a plan has effect did not commence until the 4th January 2016, and therefore LDPs adopted after this date will cease to be the LDP on the expiry period specified in the plan. Therefore, the Swansea LDP will cease to be the adopted LDP after 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

**2.2.7 Wales Placemaking Charter** - This was launched by the Welsh Minister for Housing and Local Government in September 2020 and places quality, sustainability and community at the heart of planning. It brings together organisations who by signing the Placemaking Wales Charter Pledge to involve the local community in the development of proposals; choose sustainable locations for new development; prioritise walking, cycling and public transport, create well defined, safe and welcoming streets and public spaces, promote a sustainable mix of uses to make places vibrant and value and respect the positive distinctive qualities and identity of existing places. Swansea Council is now a signatory to the Placemaking Charter.

**2.2.8 Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures – Placemaking and the Covid-19 Recovery (July 2020)** – This sets out WG planning policy priorities for the post Covid-19 recovery. It emphasises the need for good, high-quality developments which are guided by placemaking principles and identifies 8 key issues which bring individual policy areas together to ensure that action is the most effective. The Replacement LDP process will provide the opportunity to respond to the priorities and issues identified nationally and to aid recovery from the pandemic.

**2.2.9 Planning and the Post COVID-19 Recovery: Letter to Local Authorities (July 2020)** – This Welsh Minister letter requires LPAs to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs under review or being implemented. The Replacement LDP process will enable the LPA to respond to the impact of the pandemic on all elements of the LDP.

**2.2.10 Socio-economic Duty** – This duty, set within the Equality Act 2010, came into force in Wales on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and is aimed at encouraging better decision making and reducing inequalities resulting from socio-economic disadvantage. The duty requires relevant public bodies when taking strategic decisions/policy formulation, to have due regard to the need to reduce the inequalities of outcome that result

from socio-economic disadvantage. This will need to be integrated into the assessment process associated with the LDP, and approach towards engagement.

- 2.2.11 **The Environmental (Wales) Act 2016** – This new legislation introduced in March 2016 introduces a new policy framework to deliver the concept of ‘sustainable management of natural resources’ (SMNR). When preparing an LDP, the LPA is required to have regard to NRW’s National Resources Policy, the State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) and the South West Wales Area Statement which provide place based action and evidence.
- 2.2.12 **Securing Biodiversity Improvements (October 2019)** – This Chief Planning Officer letter draws the attention of LPAs to the Section 6 Duty of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and the need for planning authorities to ‘seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of their functions. It goes on to state that LPAs should be proactive and embed appropriate policies into LDPs to protect against biodiversity loss and secure enhancement’.
- 2.2.13 **The Second State of Natural Resources (SoNaRR) Report (December 2020)** - The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires LPAs to have regard to the SoNaRR published by NRW, which provides an evidence base for LPAs when revising LDPs. This second report builds on the evidence base in the first SoNaRR in

2016 and illustrates some of the key challenges, priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources.

- 2.2.14 **Welsh National Marine Plan (Nov 2019)** – The Marine Plan is intended to support the sustainable development of the seas around Wales, providing a national policy framework for the Replacement LDP with regard to any aspects covering inshore and offshore areas.
- 2.2.15 **Llwybr Newydd - The Wales Transport Strategy (2021)** – This sets out the WG vision for how the transport system can help deliver priorities for Wales in terms of 5 year and 20 year priorities, along with nine mini plans explaining how they will be delivered for different transport modes and sectors. The strategy requires governments, local authorities, transport providers and colleagues in other policy areas to work together to ensure that transport contributes to the current and future well-being of Wales. This national strategy sets the framework for the two tiers of transport plans in Wales – the National Transport Finance Plan and Joint Local Transport Plans. The strategy and policies of the Replacement LDP will need to be consistent with these plans and strategies.
- 2.2.16 **Active Travel Act Guidance (2021)** - Part 1 provides an outline summary of the aims, processes and key considerations associated with the duties of the Active

Travel (Wales) Act (2013). Part 2, provides detailed technical advice on how infrastructure should be planned and designed. This guidance explains that Active Travel Network Maps should be used to inform the preparation and review of LDPs, with reference given to the requirement within PPW for these maps to inform site allocations.

**2.2.17 Manual for Streets 2 (Urban and Rural Streets) (May 2019)** – The new document extends the Manual for Streets to include urban and rural situations and fills the gap in advice between Manual for Streets and The Standards for Trunk Roads. Manual for Streets (Residential Streets) sets out how to design, construct, adopt and maintain new and existing residential streets.

**2.2.18 Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (March 2021)** – This sets out the WG vision for electric vehicle charging in Wales, that ‘by 2025 all users of electric cars and vans in Wales are confident that they can assess electric vehicle charging infrastructure when and where they need it’. The strategy indicates that Wales currently has one of the lower levels of electric vehicle ownership in the UK and the strategy aims to increase public confidence in the availability of charging infrastructure. Swansea is identified as one area where there is likely to be a high charging demand for electric chargers of between 18,500-19,300 by 2025 and 55,685 to 57,145 by 2030.

**2.2.19 Clean Air Plan for Wales (August 2020) – This Plan** aims to improve air quality and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health, biodiversity, the natural environment and economy. The Plan supports delivery of commitments under ‘Prosperity for All: the WG national strategy’. In particular, ‘reducing emissions and delivering vital improvements in air quality’ to support ‘healthier communities and better environments’. WG also published in December 2020 a report on the impact of COVID-19 on air quality.

**2.2.20 Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) – Disposal of Surface Water through SuDs (January 2019)** – This legislation has had highly significant implications for the development industry and planning processes, and provides a framework for the approval and adoption of surface water systems serving new developments. WG introduced five statutory instruments to implement this requirement. The statutory instruments made it a requirement from the 7th January 2019 for all new developments of more than one dwelling, or where the construction area is 100m<sup>2</sup> or more, to dispose of surface water through a sustainable drainage system (SuDS).

**2.2.21 Increasing The Supply of Affordable Homes Through Planning (July 2019)** – The WG issued guidance issued to LPAs re-iterating the importance of addressing the need for affordable housing, including

making provision for affordable housing led sites when reviewing LDPs (which must include at least 50% affordable housing).

**2.2.22 Welsh Development Quality Requirements (WDQR 2021) Creating Beautiful Homes and Places** – This WG publication sets out that all affordable housing, including that provided through planning obligations and planning conditions, must meet WG’s development quality standards, especially the DQR standard. WG have also set an ambition for private developers to adopt the standards by 2025. The new standards promote good design and generous space, so people live well within their homes. This is not only aimed to boost wellbeing and keep communities together, but to respond to the changing needs of residents. Particularly relevant with the moves towards flexible working.

**2.2.23 Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) - A** new methodology for undertaking LHMAs, including a tool and accompanying guidance, became operational on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. It is to be used as the only basis of evidence for the calculation of housing need in Wales from now on. As such all LDPs should be based on the outputs of the new methodology.

**2.2.24 A Healthier Wales (2021)** – This sets out the WG national plan for health and social care to drive the changes needed to the Welsh health and social care system, so that it is able to meet the needs of current and future generations in Wales. **Public Health Wales NHS Trust guidance - Maximising health and well-being opportunities for spatial planning in the COVID-19 pandemic recovery**<sup>7</sup> - highlights the major positive and negative health impacts of spatial planning policies during the COVID-19 pandemic on the population of Wales, learn from these, any positive interventions and co-benefits in order to shape a healthier future environment for all.

**2.2.25 A Health Impact Assessment Toolkit for LDPs was published in 2021**<sup>8</sup> - This Toolkit aims to support collaboration between the planning and public health sectors to maximise positive health and well-being outcomes through land use planning policies that create healthy, equitable and cohesive communities. The aims of the Toolkit are to:

- Outline the strategic considerations that can support the maximisation of public health input into land use planning policy
- Re-introduce the relevant policy frameworks including

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<sup>7</sup> Liz Green, Sue Toner, Laura Evans, Lee Parry-Williams, Tom Johnson, Gemma Christian, Cheryl Williams, Sumina Azam and Mark A Bellis. (2022). Public Health Wales NHS Trust

<sup>8</sup> Liz Green, Lee Parry-williams, Ed Huckle (2021) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Local Development Plans (LDPs): A Toolkit for Practice. WHIASU, PHW WHO Collaborating Centre on Investment for Health and Well-being

any progress since Planning for Better Health and Well-being was published in 2016 and note any updates

- Highlight specific points within the policy development process where key Public Health contributions can be made to support and inform the policy
- Provide supporting information to maximise a consideration of health and well-being in planning development processes via the application of HIA
  - Provide real-life recent case-study examples and the insight from the officers who worked on these
  - Provide practical resources to apply HIA within the policy development process, primarily at a local level but could be applied at a regional or national level where and when applicable.

**2.2.26 Net Zero Wales and All Wales Plan 2021-2025 (October 2021) - WG reduction plan for Carbon Budget (2021-2025)** – This sets the foundations to make Wales net zero by 2050. Alongside this, the first All Wales Plan has been published, which demonstrates the commitment from partners in working together to reach Net Zero.

**2.2.27 Beyond Recycling (March 2021) Strategy** – This lays out the steps to be taken over the next decade towards achieving a circular economy.

**2.2.28 Strategic Assessment for the future need for energy from waste capacity in the three economic**

**regions of Wales (March 2021)** - confirms the announcement of a moratorium on any future large scale (10MW or greater installed capacity) energy from waste developments. It also updates and replaces the residual waste arisings estimates and forecast scenarios in the 2012 Collections Infrastructure and Markets Sector Plan, which TAN 21 Waste advises should be used in assessing the level of need for energy from waste facilities and the extent of any capacity gap.

**2.2.29 Noise and Soundscape Action Plan (2018-2023)** - outlines the Welsh public sector's strategic policy direction in relation to noise and soundscape management for the next five years. It has a broader focus than just reducing noise levels alone, recognising also the need to create appropriate soundscapes, meaning the right acoustic environment in the right time and place.

**2.2.30 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Phosphate Targets** - In January 2021, NRW introduced new tougher targets and guidance for phosphate pollution in riverine Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's) across Wales. As a result of these targets it has become necessary to identify ways in which to ensure that new residential developments do not increase the nutrient load on SAC's following discharge from a sewage treatment network. There are no affected riverine SAC's within Swansea but the Replacement LDP work

will need to be aware of this context particularly with regard to the situation within neighbouring Carmarthenshire.

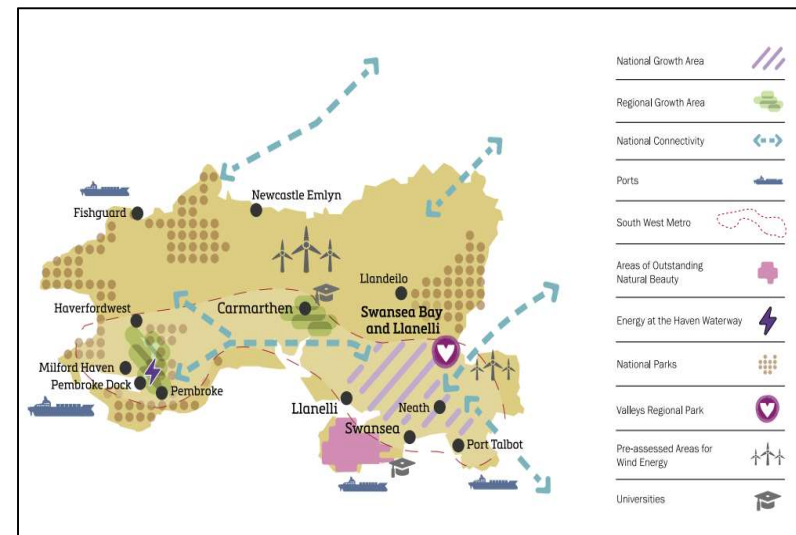
**2.2.31 Managing the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets** - Changes to the planning system were announced in July 2022 to support LPAs in managing the impact of second homes and short-term holiday lets in their areas. These include changes to planning regulations which will introduce three new planning use classes – a primary home, a second home and short-term holiday accommodation. LPAs, where they have evidence, will be able to make amendments to the planning system to require planning permission for change of use from one class to another. WG will also introduce changes to national planning policy to give local authorities the ability to control the number of second homes and holiday lets in any community. Amendments are proposed to PPW to make it explicit that, where relevant, the prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets in a local area must be taken into account when considering the housing requirements and policy approaches in LDPs.

**2.2.32 Brexit Impacts** – There have been a variety of changes to legislation and terminology arising as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, which includes for example the 2019 amendments to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (known as the 2019 Regulations).

## Regional Planning Context

**2.2.33 Corporate Joint Committees and the South West Wales SDP** – Future Wales identifies four planning regions in Wales and that SDPs will be required in each to form a regional tier of Development Plans. Matters relating to housing and economic growth, as well as digital connectivity and transport accessibility, should be co-ordinated and planned across the whole region by means of the SDP. Swansea is identified as being within the South West Wales region illustrated below.

**Figure 1 South West Wales Regional Diagram**



2.2.34 Future Wales Policy 1, 'Where Wales will Grow', identifies three National Growth Areas (NGAs). One of these NGAs is known as 'Swansea Bay and Llanelli' which is to be the focus in the region for strategic economic and housing growth; essential services and facilities; advanced manufacturing; transport and digital infrastructure and overall the main focus for growth and investment in the region. Future Wales provides an indicative outline of the NGA. Further evidence has been commissioned in order to understand the geographical area that this NGA should cover.

2.2.35 The preparation of a SDP must ensure the region manages growth in a planned and co-ordinated way to support the needs of the National and Regional Growth Areas and the wider region.

2.2.36 The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act establishes Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) for the regions in Wales. With specific regard to the strategic planning function, i.e. preparing an SDP, each CJC from the 30 June 2022, has the ability to exercise its statutory duty to prepare an SDP. SDP's will deliver more effective planning outcomes for communities by ensuring key issues, development and associated infrastructure is planned for in an integrated and comprehensive way across a wider geographical area. Working on the basis of SDP preparation taking at least 5 years in line with the latest WG guidance, and the

time needed for newly formed Authorities to formally agree the commencement of the process, the earliest an SDP is likely to be adopted is by the end of 2029. This is of course subject to change and a number of unknown factors but is beyond when the Replacement LDP would need to commence. Until an SDP is adopted, LDPs should continue to be prepared. When an SDP is adopted in the future, LDP Lites will be prepared within the SDP area for each respective LPA.

2.2.37 To inform the Replacement LDPs of constituent LPAs, and the future introduction of a SDP, officers in the *South West Wales Regional Planning Group* are working collaboratively on updating and aligning key evidence base elements across the region, including a joint Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Economic and Housing Growth Assessment and Local Housing Market Assessment; study to identify the geographical extent of the NGA; and continued collaboration on viability work building on the establishment of the Development Viability Model (DVM tool) for the financial viability of development proposals across the region.

2.2.38 **Swansea Bay City Deal progress** – the City Deal, established in 2017, will part-fund a program of major transformational projects across Swansea, Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, and Pembrokeshire over the coming years. The first £18 million of City Deal funding has been released by WG

and UK Government, based on the approval of two City Deal projects, one of which is in Swansea - the City and Waterfront Digital District. Construction on the indoor arena forming part of the Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District project was completed in 2021-22. Planning consent was also granted for the digital village on the Kingsway during 2020 and construction is underway. Both sites form integral elements of the LDP Strategic Development Area covering the Central Area and Waterfront (SD J) and will deliver on key regeneration and placemaking objectives for these areas.

**2.2.39 South West Wales Regional Economic Delivery Plan (REDP)** - The Council recently adopted the South West Wales REDP as the Council's over-arching economic regeneration policy to replace the Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy. The REDP complements the new Welsh Government Regional Economic Framework (REF) and provides a further layer of detail below the REF, outlining the objectives and actions that will deliver against the high level vision in the REF. The REDP sets out an ambitious 'route map' for the development of the region's economy over the next ten years, identifying priorities for intervention and setting out how business, government, education, voluntary/ community organisations, social enterprises and other partners can work together to bring them forward. The REDP identifies three ambitions for building a South West

Wales that is:

- “resilient and sustainable;
- enterprising and ambitious; and
- balanced and inclusive”.

**2.2.40** These ambitions support three complementary missions:

- Establishing South West Wales as a UK leader in renewable energy and the development of a net zero economy, which involves taking forward the region's major energy related projects and driving the benefits through the region.
- Building a strong, resilient, and 'embedded' business base by supporting business and entrepreneurship through technology, infrastructure and public sector support.
- Growing and sustaining the 'experience' offer by linking environmental quality, quality of life and community character.

**2.2.41 Joint Local Transport Plan –** The Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015 - 2020) is the statutory policy which determines the strategy and programme for transportation and transport infrastructure within Swansea. The plan provides a consistent policy which is applied across the four councils in South West Wales. The JLTP will provide an important consideration for the Replacement LDP.



**2.2.42 Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro** – Future Wales contains a policy to develop a south west Wales Metro, which aspires to create new integrated transport systems providing faster, more frequent and joined-up services. Transport for Wales (TfW) is developing Metro concepts for a number of areas across Wales. The overarching concept is to provide an accessible, integrated and comprehensive network using a variety of modes such as heavy rail, tram-train, light rail and bus as appropriate to individual routes. Feasibility design and operational assessment and appraisals of various options to improve rail services and facilities in South West Wales are ongoing and will need to be monitored to inform the Replacement LDP.

**2.2.43 Regional Technical Statement on Aggregates North and South Wales (Second Review), 2018** – informs the provision of adequate reserves of aggregates in the LDP in order to ensure sufficient provision for construction and other industries in the most sustainable manner reasonably achievable.

### ***Local Planning Context***

**2.2.44 Local Well-being Plan** - Swansea Public Services Board has prepared its second Assessment of Local Well-being for public consultation in March 2022. This will help Swansea Public Services Board identify a focused number of well-being objectives that will contribute to the national well-being goals as set out in

the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and will be used to develop Swansea's next Local Well-being Plan, which will provide an overarching framework for all LA plans/strategies including the Replacement LDP.

**2.2.45** Further local strategies and policy that will provide important evidence base for the Replacement LDP include the following list below.

**2.2.46 Council Corporate Plan 2022/23: Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea** - identifies challenges facing Swansea which include:

- Population changes – a growing, ageing and more diverse Swansea.
- Economic changes – attracting investment, high quality jobs and new technology into Swansea while addressing the skills gap.
- Climate change and nature emergencies – risks from flooding, air and water quality, dangers to ecosystems and biodiversity and energy security.
- Social and cultural changes – addressing inequalities in health, education, employment and life chances.
- Covid-19 – helping Swansea to recover and transforming the Council to meet the changes and the new challenges ahead.

2.2.47 The Corporate Plan prioritises six well-being objectives for 2022-23, and the following are of relevance to land use planning:

- Transforming our Economy & Infrastructure – so that Swansea has a thriving mixed use City Centre and a local economy that will support the prosperity of our citizens.
- Tackling Poverty – so that every person in Swansea can achieve their potential.
- Delivering on Nature Recovery and Climate Change – so that we maintain and enhance nature and biodiversity in Swansea, reduce our carbon footprint and tackle climate change.

2.2.48 Three clear values will guide the way the Council works:

- People focus
- Working together
- Innovation

2.2.49 Three key principles underpin the Council's plans and priorities:

- Sustainability
- Prevention
- Partnerships

2.2.50 **Climate and Nature Emergency** - In 2019, Swansea Council declared a Climate Emergency and has followed this up with an action plan to reduce

organisational emissions, a policy review to tackle climate change as part of everything the Council does, and plans for engagement to work with partners and citizens in striving for a net zero carbon Swansea by 2050. The Council has an organisational target of a net zero Swansea Council by 2030. This means reducing and offsetting carbon emissions from the Council's activities and estate. But to make a real difference the whole of Swansea has to reduce its carbon footprint. The Council's ambition is for a net zero Swansea by 2050.

2.2.51 The Council recognises that biodiversity loss is every much as serious to our future survival as climate change and has proposed through a Notice of Motion (4th November 2021) that, in support of WG's declaration of a nature emergency, the Council has declared a nature emergency and the resulting Nature Recovery Action Plan and Climate Action Plan will need to be considered for the Replacement LDP.

2.2.52 **Green Infrastructure Strategy** – A new GI Strategy (Swansea Central Area: Regenerating our City for Wellbeing and Wildlife) was published in February 2021. This has been designed to deliver on the aim to bring more GI into the Swansea Central Area.

2.2.53 **Supplementary Planning Guidance** - A number of SPG documents supporting the LDP, have been adopted following public consultation on draft

documents since the Plan was adopted, including:

- Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA) SPG
- Biodiversity and Development SPG
- Mumbles Conservation Area Review SPG
- Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands SPG
- Placemaking Guidance for the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) SPG
- Placemaking for residential development for developments of 10 and more homes; infill and backland development of between 1-10 homes within existing communities; and guidance for Householder development relating to alterations and extensions to existing home.

### ***Covid-19 Pandemic***

2.2.54 The huge societal and economic shock caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is a highly significant contextual change that clearly the Swansea LDP had neither envisaged or planned for in terms of policy or strategy. The crisis impacted on site operations (including closure of sites and/or social distancing having big impacts on operations), and led to labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems. Moreover, the pandemic has altered behaviors (such as the propensity to travel, the demand for locally accessible

services, etc.) and working practices, which may have a significant degree of permanence. The Welsh Ministerial Letter to Local Authorities (July 2020) on Planning and the Post COVID-19 Recovery requires LPAs to reflect on the impact of the pandemic on their areas and consider the consequences for LDPs under review or being implemented.

## **2.3 Key Findings of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports (AMRs)**

2.3.1 All of the AMRs published in relation to the Swansea LDP have reviewed the changes affecting the planning context in which the Plan operates. These aspects have informed the earlier sections of this Chapter and are not repeated again here.

2.3.2 As well as the profound impact on society and development activity, the COVID 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on some of the activities monitored over the period (e.g. housebuilding rates; and while traffic flows have increased from low levels during the height of the pandemic, traffic patterns remain markedly altered from pre pandemic habits). COVID recovery will need to be taken into account in the preparation the Replacement LDP.

2.3.3 The LDP Monitoring Framework is based around the Strategic Policies of the Plan, with indicators to

measure the effectiveness of the policies and the progress in delivering allocations and infrastructure. AMR 3 showed that overall, the majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation and are shown as green. It highlights however that some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes, particularly those relating to housing and employment land delivery and the provision of Gypsy and Traveller pitches, are not being achieved. This indicates that these policies are not functioning as intended, and in these instances the statutory 4 year LDP review will provide the opportunity to address these issues as part of the Replacement LDP.

2.3.4 In these instances the monitoring has recommended specific actions, including the review of particular policies (e.g. in relation to specific site allocations (and in some cases this is to reflect that the site now has planning consent and so needs to be shown as a commitment rather than as an allocation in the next LDP); and for Gypsy/Traveller pitch provision). For other issues and indicators, the AMR finds that these should be taken account of more generally in the Plan review, including indicators that highlight the Plan is not delivering the anticipated levels of housing growth to meet the requirements over the Plan period. Table 7 summarises the outcome for all the indicators.

**Table 1: LDP Monitoring Summary for 2021-22 – AMR 3**

Assessment	Action	Number of Indicators
Indicators suggest that the Plan policies are being implemented effectively and there is no cause for review	Continue Monitoring (Green)	95
Indicators suggest that the Plan Policies are not being implemented in the intended manner.	Training Required (Blue)	0
Indicators suggest the need for further guidance in addition to those identified in the Plan	SPG required (Purple)	0
Indicators suggest the Plan Policies are not being effective as originally expected.	Further investigation/ research required (Yellow)	5
Indicators suggest that Plan policy/ies are not being implemented.	Policy Review (Orange)	18
Indicators suggest the Plan strategy is not being implemented.	Plan Review (Red)	7

2.3.5 A small number of indicators have been flagged for further investigation and research as a result of the monitoring findings. This research will be routinely needed to inform the Replacement LDP and includes updating the evidence base for residential windfall site rates; the latest published Gypsy and Traveller need;

high level viability testing for infrastructure and affordable housing provision; the need for land for mineral extraction; and reasons for district heating networks not coming forward. These are arising from the monitoring framework of indicators and will inform the research needed for the Replacement LDP, but do not represent an exhaustive list and the LDP evidence base as a whole will need to be reviewed.

- 2.3.6 In conclusion, AMR 3 highlights that the Council must undertake a comprehensive review of the Swansea LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption, which in relation to the Swansea LDP adopted date (February 2019) means the statutory requirement to commence a review of the Swansea LDP is by February 2023 at the latest. It finds that, given this impending need to review and the findings in respect of certain monitoring indicators, it is appropriate that a LDP Review Report should now be prepared in-line with Welsh Government guidance.

## 2.4 Findings from the Annual SA Monitoring

- 2.4.1 The LDP SA Report identified the 8 key issues for monitoring related to the delivery of sustainable development and well-being of communities, where the implementation of the LDP will have the most significant likely effects. AMR 3 presented tables setting out the results from the first, second and third years of monitoring the implementation of the LDP. A

summary of the outcomes against each of the issues is set out below:

- *Loss of habitats and species (biodiversity)*
- 2.4.2 LDP policies seek to maintain and enhance the County's biodiversity resource and protected habitats and species and the monitoring has shown that the policies are being implemented effectively. The adoption of the Biodiversity and Development SPG will further aid the implementation of the policies.
- *Impact on landscape character, particularly protected landscapes*
- 2.4.3 Development undoubtedly can have an impact on landscape character. However, the AMR indicates that there has been no detrimental impact within the County, particularly protected landscapes, during the monitoring period; and the LDP policies are being implemented effectively.
- *Impact on the cultural and historic environment, particularly the Welsh language and archaeology*
- 2.4.4 The AMR indicates that there has been no detrimental impact on the County's cultural and historic environment during the monitoring period and the LDP policies are being implemented effectively, including with regard to the Welsh Language.

- *Air pollution, particularly with regard to increased vehicular emissions as a result of new development through the AQMA and City Centre*

2.4.5 The analysis has shown that the LDP policies are being implemented correctly and should be having a generally positive impact on air quality.

- *Increased development in flood risk areas, particularly with regard to the City Centre and waterfront destinations*

2.4.6 The analysis has shown that the LDP policies are being implemented correctly and should be having a generally positive impact with regard to avoiding development in flood risk areas. Changes to TAN 15 will be a key consideration for the Replacement LDP.

- *The provision of affordable housing to meet local needs, particularly in rural areas.*

2.4.7 The indicators demonstrate the levels of affordable housing being secured and delivered. Overall, throughout the County, housing (of all tenures) is being delivered, but the volume is less than anticipated due to time lags for example in the delivery of some larger sites. Planning permission for some allocated affordable housing sites in rural areas has been granted within the monitoring period, thereby helping local people stay within their communities. Construction has commenced on 60%

of the total units anticipated to be delivered across the six allocated H5 sites within Gower and the Gower Fringe but overall the level of affordable rural housing delivered so far has been less than anticipated.

- *The provision of necessary social and community infrastructure and highway and transport improvements, to facilitate the delivery of SDAs as required by the masterplanning principles to deliver sustainable and cohesive communities.*

2.4.8 The indicators demonstrate the levels of infrastructure being secured and delivered through the planning system to help deliver sustainable and cohesive communities. A range of community facilities and social infrastructure have been permitted as part of permissions granted on SDAs, helping to facilitate sustainable and cohesive communities.

- *Increase employment and economic activity throughout the County as a result of the economic strategy which underlines the Plan.*

2.4.9 The amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 34.2% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement. This will have a general positive impact on the development of Swansea as a competitive place and contribute to Swansea's role as a regional economic driver. It will help contribute to a prosperous economic outlook and sustainable economy.

## Chapter 2 Conclusions on Contextual Changes and Other Factors Informing LDP Review

- There are a wide range of factors and material changes in circumstance that will have a bearing on decision making relating to the replacement Swansea LDP
  - The Ministerial letter on Plan end dates which has confirmed that the adopted LDP will expire on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026
  - The findings of the AMRs, in particular AMR 3 which has triggered a review of the LDP, highlight the need to commence review by February 2023 in order to meet the statutory requirement to review the Plan and its evidence base at least every 4 years
  - A key finding of AMR 3 - which is considered in Chapter 4 of this report - is the slower than anticipated delivery of development allocated in the LDP, similar to other areas of South Wales.
- Significant changes in the overarching planning policy context include the adoption of Future Wales as the higher national tier development plan and its implications, along with the latest edition of national policy (PPW), WG planning policy on COVID recovery, emerging regional policy work, and the latest Local Well-being Plan will need to inform the Replacement LDP.
  - The updated Welsh Government guidance on preparing LDPs, will be a crucial reference point. This clearly sets out guidance for Plan review and the parameters for consideration of the type of review procedure to be adopted in terms of Long Form versus SFR (which are referenced elsewhere in this report).
- There are numerous other new and updated policy and other contextual factors listed in Chapter 2 that will also need to inform the Replacement LDP.

## Chapter 3. Future Evidence Base Requirements

### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 This Chapter reviews the LDP evidence base and which parts of it require updating to support changes to the Plan. Regulation 41 specifically highlights that, in the context of the statutory requirement to review an LDP within 4 years from the date of adoption, the evidence that informs an LDP will be considered dated beyond that 4 year date.

3.1.2 **The foundation of the Replacement LDP must be an appropriate, robust and up to date evidence base.** Understanding if, or where, there are gaps in the existing LDP evidence and what needs to be updated, will be essential.

### 3.2 Evidence Base Review

3.2.1 There are a range of elements of the existing LDP evidence base that have become out-of-date given the time that has passed since Plan adoption, and moreover when some of the supporting evidence was initially prepared. Within the time elapsed there have been significant contextual, legislative and policy changes, which have been set out in detail in Chapter 2 of this report. These include, for example, evidence

relating to new demographic projections and economic forecasts, the impacts of updated national flood risk policy and mapping, and the economic and societal changes caused by the COVID pandemic and BREXIT.

3.2.2 A list of evidence base assessments either emerging or likely to be required to inform the Replacement LDP is provided below:

- Population, economic and housing growth assessments
- Employment land review
- Local Housing Market Assessment
- Future Wales National Growth Area Review
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Retail Assessment
- Urban Capacity Study
- Settlement Boundary Review, including village assessments
- Financial Viability Assessments
- Infrastructure Requirements Review
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment
- Strategic Flood Consequences Assessment
- Green Infrastructure and Open Space Assessment
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment and review of the Welsh Language Sensitive Area
- 2nd Review of South Wales Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates



3.2.3 This list focuses on studies that the LPA needs to undertake. It is not intended to be completely definitive of all evidence needed for the Plan. Some of these studies will include sub elements of detail which are not itemised. There will also be key evidence and data sets that are not listed but will be key to informing these studies and/or Replacement LDP formation, such as the latest demographic projections and economic forecasts. Additional evidence base update requirements may emerge as the preparation of the Replacement LDP progresses and the LPA will continue to monitor and implement the required research for any other evidence needs that emerge.

3.2.4 The Council continually keeps the evidence on which the Plan is based under review. Already in 2022 the Council has commissioned work in partnership with neighbouring Authorities to review the Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area Study and comprehensively assess population, economic and housing growth. It has also jointly commissioned an updated Local Housing Market Assessment, in line with Welsh Government guidance. The Council will continue to consider the benefits of joint working with neighbouring Planning Authorities to pool resources, reduce costs and plan effectively across borders to

take account of issues that have implications beyond individual administrative boundaries.

3.2.5 The remainder of this Chapter focuses on the latest Welsh Government population and household projections, released since adoption of the current LDP. PPW explains that these projections, alongside the latest LHMA and Local Well-being Plan, form a fundamental part of the evidence base for development plans.

### 3.3 Population and Household Data

#### Latest Demographic Projections

3.3.1 Since the adoption of the LDP, WG has published trend-based population and household projections for Welsh local authority areas. These projections are 2018-based<sup>9</sup> and are the last published before the 2021 Census results. They supersede earlier projections, including the previous 2014-based which formed the latest evidence reviewed for the adopted LDP.

3.3.2 Under the principle projection, the total **population** of Swansea is projected to increase from an estimated 246,500 in 2018 to 254,400 in 2028, an increase of

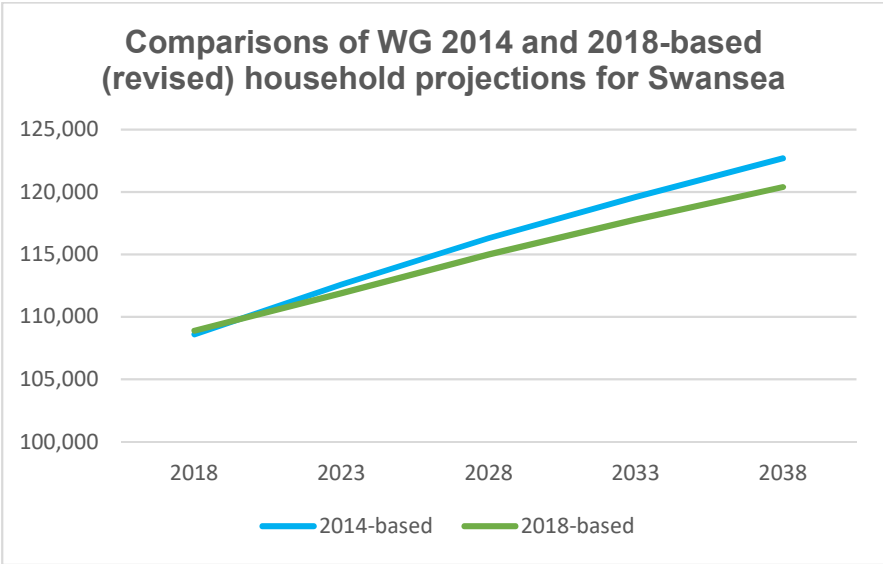
<sup>9</sup> 2018-based population projections. Swansea Council - Information, Research & GIS (Strategic Delivery Unit), August 2020.

2018-based household projections (revised). Swansea Council - Information, Research & GIS (SDU), December 2020.

7,900 (+3.2%) over the first ten-year period. The total number of **households** in Swansea is projected to increase from an estimated 108,900 in 2018 to 115,000 in 2028 (+6,100 or +5.6% over 10 years).

3.3.3 Figure 1 illustrates a comparison of these most recent household projections against the previous set released by WG.

**Figure 1: Comparisons of WG 2014 and 2018-based (revised) household projections for Swansea**



**Table 2: Comparisons of WG 2014 and 2018-based (revised) household projections for Swansea**

Year	2014-based	2018-based
2018	108,600	108,900
2023	112,600	111,900
2028	116,300	115,000
2033	119,600	117,800
2038	122,700	120,400

3.3.4 Overall, the Welsh Government’s 2018-based sub-national household projections point to a continuation of growth in Swansea, but the rate of growth is lower than projected in the previous set of projections on which the LDP was based. For example, over the first common ten-year period (2018-28), projected growth in the 2018-based projections is 5.6%, lower than the 7.1% figure in the previous (2014-based) projections. The gap between the figures widens slightly for the duration of the projection period.

3.3.5 WG have also produced alternative lower and higher projections by varying the assumptions used. The outputs for Swansea are shown below.

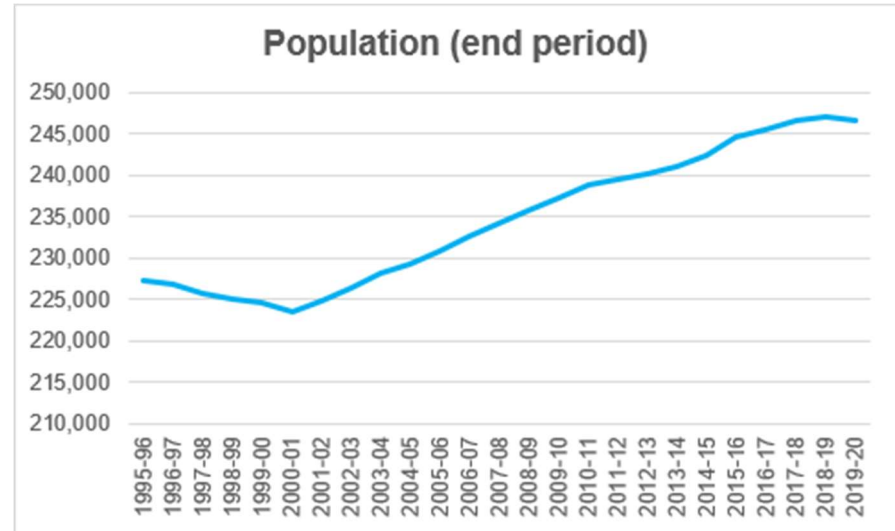
**Table 3: Welsh Government 2018-based variant household projections to 2028 and 2043, Swansea**

Variant: Swansea	Projected Change to 2028	Projected Change to 2043
Lower Variant	+5000 (+4.6%) to 113,800	+8,600 (+7.9%) to 117,500
Principal Projection	+6100 (+5.6%) to 115,000	+14,000 (+12.8%) to 122,800
Higher Variant	+6,900 (+6.4%) to 115,800	+18,100 (+16.6%) to 126,900

**Mid Year Population Estimates**

3.3.6 Mid Year Estimates (MYE) of the population are published annually. The latest MYE for June 2020 (published June 2021) indicated a population for Swansea of 246,600, a decrease in population size of 400 on the 2019 MYE (the first recorded decrease in Swansea’s population since 2001 as shown by Figure 2 below). This decrease was mainly due to negative natural change with deaths exceeding births by 600 on the previous year; while negative net internal (UK-based) migration was offset by continued estimated growth from net international migration.

**Figure 2: MYE of population change for Swansea 1995-20**



3.3.7 The estimates cover the period up to 30 June 2020 and so only describe some of the impacts of the early part of the COVID-19 pandemic on the population. The 2020 MYE is the last set of annual mid-year estimates to be published based on the 2011 Census.

**Table 4: MYE 2020 Components and change from 2019**

Area	Mid-2019 Population	Components of Change		Migration and Other Changes	Mid-2020 Population
		Births	Deaths		
Swansea	247,000	+2,200	-2,800	+200	246,600
Wales	3,152,900	+29,400	-35,800	+23,100	3,169,600
UK	66,796,800	+700,700	-669,200	+252,900	67,081,200

Source: MYE 2019-20 ONS

**Census 2021**

3.3.8 In June 2022 ONS released initial rounded outputs from the 2021 Census. These outputs suggest there has been no growth in the population of the County between census dates – in fact a minor -0.2%

reduction from 239,023 residents in 2011 to 238,500 in 2021. This runs counter to the general trends identified in the MYE of population (above) which had shown an increase to 246,600 by 2020. In comparison, over the same inter Census period (2011-2021), Wales saw an increase of +1.4%.

3.3.9 The number of households in the County has increased by approximately +1.5% from 103,497 in 2011 to 105,000 in 2021, but this is around 5,000 fewer than the latest MYE. Over the same inter Census period, Wales saw an increase of +3.4%.

3.3.10 The 2021 MYEs, the first to be based on the latest Census results, are scheduled to be published by ONS in Autumn 2022, with the mid-year population estimates for 2012 to 2020 due to be revised (re-based using 2021 Census data) in early 2023.

3.3.11 Further analysis of these Census figures as each set is released will be undertaken and will be crucial to understanding the implications for the Replacement LDP's level of growth. This work is being progressed as part of the Economic and Housing Growth Assessment commissioned jointly with neighbouring Authorities.

### *Chapter 3 Conclusions on Future Evidence Base Requirements*

- Regulation 41 states that an LDP must be reviewed at least every 4 years from the date of adoption and the legislation is clear that beyond four years the evidence base becomes dated. The foundation of the Replacement LDP will be a robust and up to date evidence base.
- This Chapter has identified the main studies that will be required to be updated but is not intended to be an exhaustive list.
- A key requirement will be to take account of the evident changes in population and household forecasts. Changes could be needed to the LDP's growth strategy as a result which will require the Full Revision procedure to be adopted rather than a SFR because the SFR procedure specifically excludes Regulation 15 and the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation on the scale and distribution of growth. The Full Revision procedure will also allow the LPA to review the whole LDP evidence base to ensure it remains up to date.

## Chapter 4. Review of adopted Swansea LDP

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This chapter sets out how the findings in Chapters 2 and 3 are considered to impact on the Swansea LDP. This includes impacts upon the Plan Vision, Aims, Objectives, Growth Strategy, Spatial Strategy, Policies and Proposals, all with a view to informing the LDP review process. It includes a review of each plan topic area, and implications for any parts of the Plan not proposed to be amended in terms of coherence and effectiveness of the plan as a whole. This chapter also considers the SA/SEA and HRA.

### 4.2 Review of LDP Issues, Vision and Objectives

4.2.1 A significant amount of evidence gathering and background research was undertaken during the course of preparing the Swansea LDP, in order to identify the key strategic opportunities and issues that the Plan needed to address. These are summarised in Chapter 1 of the LDP, grouped under the well-being headings of economic; social and cultural; and environment. They highlight the broad spectrum of areas where the Plan can affect change, particularly in terms of improving sustainability and well-being. However, the list is noted as not being exhaustive since

the range of issues affecting and affected by the Plan is extensive. These key strategic opportunities and issues then fed into the development of the LDP vision and strategic objectives.

4.2.2 The LDP Vision clarifies the core purpose of the Plan, how the County is expected to change and describes the sort of place it should become during the Plan period. The vision was formulated to ensure the Plan addressed the key opportunities and issues identified, reflected Swansea's regional context, and translated the well-being vision for Wales as a whole into the local context. It accorded with the strategic planning priorities in relevant national, regional and other local policies and strategies including the Swansea Local Well-being Plan (2018), and was shaped by public and stakeholder engagement.

**Figure 3: LDP Extract - The LDP Vision**



- 4.2.3 The LDP vision is delivered through 24 strategic level objectives for improving economic, environmental, cultural and social well-being.
- 4.2.4 Figure 4 of the LDP illustrates that the LDP objectives were tested against how they will help deliver the seven shared well-being goals for Wales. They also have sustainability and placemaking as core principles.
- 4.2.5 It is not therefore anticipated that significant changes will be required but the LDP opportunities, issues, vision and objectives will need to be checked against relevant changes in background evidence and context, including, for example, the relationship to Future

Wales, updated PPW and the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, the latest Local Well-being Plan and Council Corporate Plan and priorities; and stakeholder engagement. This will include identifying any opportunities and issues that have been addressed/achieved as well as those which remain relevant going forward, together with any newly identified factors that need to be added, including for example any matters relating to recovery from the COVID pandemic.

### 4.3 Review of the LDP Growth Strategy

#### *Reviewing Scale of Growth Requirements*

- 4.3.1 The LDP identifies a requirement for 15,600 new homes over the plan period 2010-25 and a requirement for 19 hectares of employment land to accommodate the forecasted creation of 13,600 new jobs. These requirements form the basis of the following Strategic Policies:
  - PS 3: Sustainable Housing Strategy
  - PS 4: Sustainable Employment Strategy
- 4.3.2 These requirements were identified from an evidence base which evolved during the preparation of the LDP in order to take account of the most up to date evidence (such as demographic projections and employment forecasts) and consultation comments.

Due to the time that has elapsed since LDP adoption, this evidence base is now out of date and will need to be updated for the Replacement LDP.

- 4.3.3 The Council has jointly commissioned with NPT Council an Economic and Housing Growth Assessment and Local Housing Market Assessment in order to inform the level of growth that should be taken forward in the Replacement LDP. This assessment will follow the requirements of the Development Plans Manual. This study will consider jobs and new homes collectively ensuring that both economic and housing growth are broadly aligned in order to inform a sustainable strategy. In-line with PPW, the latest Welsh Government local authority level Household Projections for Wales, alongside the latest LHMA, will form a fundamental part of the evidence base for the Replacement LDP.
- 4.3.4 A key requirement of the Replacement LDP will be to take account of the evident changes in population and household forecasts (summarized in Chapter 3) and updated forecasts of employment growth. Changes could be needed to the LDP's growth strategy as a result which will require the Full Revision procedure to be adopted rather than a SFR because the SFR procedure specifically excludes Regulation 15 and the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation on the scale of growth.

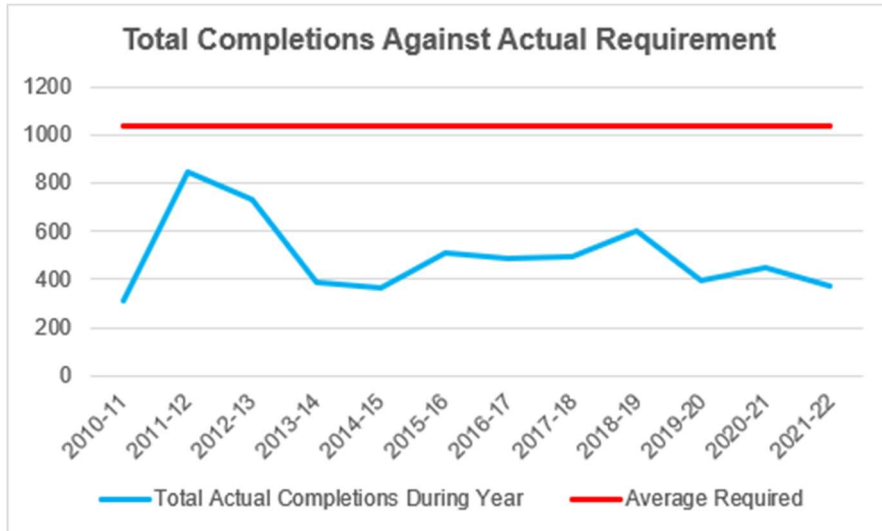
- 4.3.5 In terms of levels of future growth, Future Wales identifies that under the WG central estimates 25,600 additional homes are needed in the South West region until 2039. Future Wales states that this is not intended to prescribe a housing requirement, but provides part of the evidence and context on which housing policy and requirements can be based for LDPs in the region.

### ***Reviewing Delivery***

- 4.3.6 The AMRs have reported on progress towards achieving the growth requirements set out in the LDP and this progress is summarised below at the County level. Further breakdown by area / types of site is provided in the spatial strategy section.
- 4.3.7 In order to meet the requirement for new dwellings set out in policy PS 3, an average of 1,040 additional homes were required to be completed each year, across the 15-year plan period. Overall, AMR 3 has noted that 5,952 dwellings have been completed between 2010-11 and 2021-22. This equates to 48% of the cumulative average annual requirement (AAR). The chart below illustrates the dwelling completions from 2010 to 2022 plotted against the AAR.



**Figure 4: New Dwellings Built Per Year Compared to the Annual Average Requirement for the LDP Period**



4.3.8 Land for employment uses is allocated in Policy PS 4 to accommodate the forecasted job growth and employment land requirement, while allowing flexibility in terms of providing a range of different types of site. The amount of employment land consented on allocated sites is monitored in the AMR and is summarised in the table below. Overall approximately 6.5 ha has been consented on SDAs which equates to around 9.8% of the overall LDP allocation of 60 ha. It should be noted that the Plan provides a higher level of employment land allocations than the identified employment land requirement of 19 ha. The allocations have been made on a range of sites for

different types of investors at sustainable locations across the County, to maximise opportunities for investment and to be flexible to changes in market demand. Therefore it is also useful to note that the amount of employment land granted planning consent in 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 provides 31.1% of the 19 ha LDP employment land requirement.

**Table 5: Employment Land Consented at Allocated sites since LDP adoption (in hectares)**

	Allocated area	Planning consents since LDP adoption on SDAs
Total	60 ha	5.9 ha

***Spatial Strategy (Strategic Policies PS 1, 3 and 4)***

4.3.9 The LDP strategy for allocating land to meet anticipated growth and identified land use requirements is fundamentally focused on bringing forward development on sites that will best address the Plan and SA objectives. There is a particular focus on providing employment growth opportunities, regeneration and delivering good quality accommodation in sustainable cohesive communities, while conserving the County’s unique natural heritage, and cultural and historic environments.

4.3.10 The distribution of future sustainable growth across the County in the LDP follows a simple settlement hierarchy consisting of the urban area, Key Villages and the countryside. This approach identifies Swansea's urban area as the primary focus for growth and the most sustainable location for major development, reinforcing its position as the main centre for the Swansea Bay City Region. Away from the urban area, small-scale growth is focused on a number of defined key villages. A rural settlement appraisal process identified Key Villages as the most sustainable settlements within the rural area, to accommodate appropriate small scale housing, community facilities and sustainable rural enterprise development.

4.3.11 The County's countryside is extensive, within which are numerous hamlets, isolated dwellings, farms and rural enterprises that reflect the nature of the County's rural economy. The countryside is a finite resource and is protected from inappropriate development in the spatial strategy in accordance with national planning policy. It is unlikely that this general spatial strategy will change.

4.3.12 In terms of informing new allocations for development, different spatial options (see Figure 6) were tested for distributing the identified growth projections and associated land use requirements for the Plan period, in consultation with the public and stakeholders.

**Figure 5: The LDP Spatial Options**

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Option 4
Edge of settlement allocations throughout the County	Edge of settlement allocations, plus limited rural/semi-rural extensions	Sustainable Urban Extensions for residential	Strategic Development Areas
'Spread Approach'	'Spread Approach - Plus'	'Focussed Approach - Residential'	'Focussed Approach - Mixed Use & Residential'

4.3.13 The assessment demonstrated that none of the options in isolation would deliver sustainable development. The assessment of options and recommendations for mitigation of negative effects highlighted the need to pursue a combination of approaches to deliver the land use requirements over the Plan period in a sustainable manner.

4.3.14 The LDP allows for the creation of a limited number of sustainable new neighbourhoods at Strategic Development Areas (SDAs), within, or close to the existing urban area which have the greatest potential to contribute to the Plan's Vision and Strategic Objectives and deliver well-being and sustainable development. The size of SDAs presents sufficient scale to enable careful strategic masterplanning to ensure they create sustainable, cohesive, well-designed and quality new places which are delivered through a strong placemaking approach. The economies of scale enable

the level of new infrastructure required to be provided and through careful siting of SDAs.

4.3.15 The Strategy also recognises that there is an important need to address the identified housing requirements of all communities in the County. A focus solely on SDAs, by virtue of the appropriate available development opportunities, would lead to an over concentration of development in certain SHPZs. To fulfil housing needs across the County, the SDAs were supported by a limited number of non-strategic medium scale edge of settlement extensions and more dispersed and smaller allocations to round off settlements. These support provision of a mix of housing development across the County where it is needed, including small scale appropriate development to provide Affordable Housing for Local Needs in rural and semirural settlements where the existing character and cohesion of the community will be maintained or improved by development.

4.3.16 **Whilst it is not anticipated that significant changes will be needed to the overarching Spatial Strategy, the way in which it is delivered will need to be reviewed against changes since the Plan's adoption, including for example the relevant spatial aspects set out in Future Wales.**

## ***Delivery of the Spatial Strategy***

4.3.17 The LDP spatial strategy is sought to be delivered by the objectives and planning requirements set out in Strategic Policy PS 1 Sustainable Places, and supported by PS 2 and PS 4 that specifically cover housing and employment land respectively. The AMR monitors delivery of these strategies spatially.

4.3.18 Indicator 1 has monitored development in the countryside and the monitoring has shown planning consents have been in-line with the policy framework. It is concluded that green wedges and countryside is being protected from inappropriate development and development is being directed towards the most sustainable places within the defined settlement boundaries. The settlement boundary will need to be reviewed for any small changes required to update it for the Replacement LDP.

4.3.19 Housing delivery has also been monitored against the different components of housing supply. The findings to date of that monitoring are summarised below.

**Table 6: Housing Delivery Since LDP adoption 2019-20 to 2021-22**

Supply component	New dwellings built since LDP adoption
Allocations	
SDAs	115
H1	378
H5	105
LDP large commitments	216
Large windfall sites	179
Small sites	224
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,217</b>

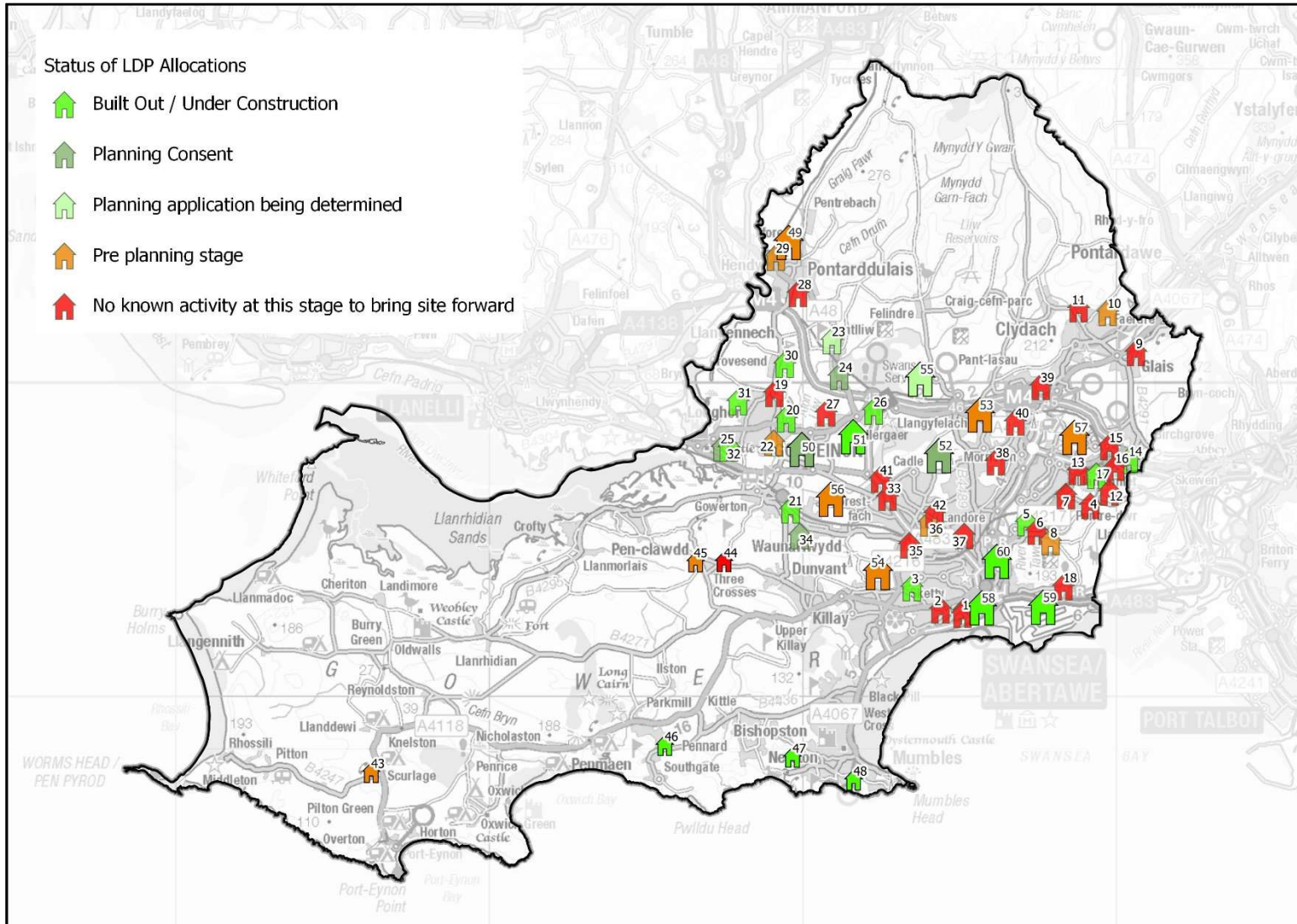
4.3.20 Figure 7 illustrates the delivery status of the Plan’s allocated sites, showing which have been built, are under construction, or have planning consent. It also shows the sites which have not progressed to planning application stage as of the date of this report.

4.3.21 A number of windfall sites have come forward and delivered housing in the period since the Plan was adopted. Furthermore, a number of large windfall sites that have detailed planning consent, totaling in excess of the forecasts in the LDP for annual windfall delivery, are expected to be built in the next 3 years. This suggests that the windfall assumptions adopted in the LDP for large windfall sites are likely to be a conservative underestimate in terms of what will be delivered over the full Plan period. On the basis that further windfall sites will come forward in the later years

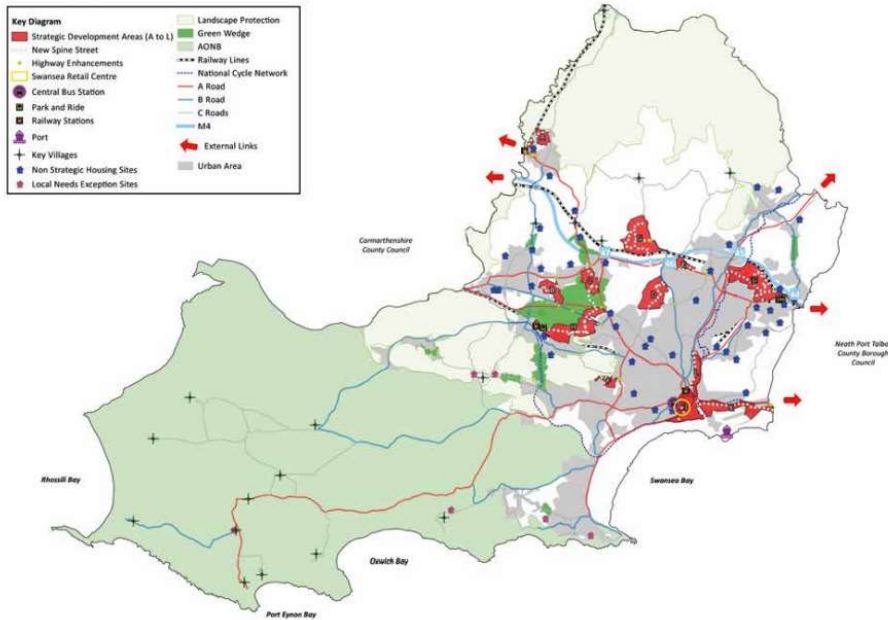
of the Plan period in line with this trend, above and beyond the annual rate assumed in the LDP, it is assumed there will be an uplift in supply from this mechanism in future years of the Plan.

4.3.22 Indicator 8 has monitored delivery of new dwellings in the ‘Key Villages’ defined in the LDP. This shows that 85 have been delivered in the years 2019-22. Opportunities remain on allocated sites for approximately a further 228 new homes in Key Villages. The key villages will need to be reassessed for any changes in status and the need for any potential further sustainable development opportunities to support the Plan strategy.

**Figure 7: Delivery Status of Allocated sites**



**Figure 8: The LDP Spatial Strategy Diagram**



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4.3.23 As reported in AMR 3, the overall number of additional dwellings built within the County has fallen below the AAR of 1,040 homes per annum for 3 consecutive years following adoption of the LDP. Combined with the lower levels of housing delivery over the initial years of the Plan period, to meet the LDP housing target of 15,600 new dwellings, an annual build rate of 2,412 new homes will be needed from 2022 to 2025. This level of delivery is unprecedented and would require

numerous sites to come forward at the same time. It is therefore now considered unlikely that the LDP housing requirement will be delivered in full during the LDP period.

4.3.24 The failure to deliver the levels of housing growth set out in the plan is due to a variety of factors as set out in AMR 3. There have been highly exceptional circumstances that have influenced the above outcome over the last 2-3 years. In particular, at times within this period dwelling completions have been impacted by the COVID 19 crisis impacting on site operations (closure of sites and social distancing), while labour supply issues, rising costs of materials and extended lead in times due to supply chain problems are also impacting the housebuilding industry<sup>10</sup>. Further factors which have affected the speed in which the allocated residential led SDA sites are coming forward are the requirements to fully incorporate sustainable drainage requirements, and changing ecological legislative requirements. It is important to note that delays in the delivery of housing requirements are being experienced across South Wales (eg. similar has been reported in the Cardiff, Newport, NPT and Bridgend AMRs) and this issue is not confined to Swansea. For example, the latest Cardiff AMR notes that completion rates are below targets for housing sites in their LDP

<sup>10</sup> Survey of Small and Medium Enterprise housebuilders in the UK (HBF January 2022 press release)



which was adopted several years before the Swansea LDP.

4.3.25 Significant progress has however been made towards achieving planning permissions and related approvals, to enable developers to commence works on site and deliver the homes required. The LPA has continued to engage closely with the relevant site promoters and developers since the LDP was prepared and adopted, and several SDAs have been brought forward to detailed planning application stages. This close working has ensured that the sites have progressed in-line with the detailed placemaking principles and sustainability requirements that are clearly set out in the Development Plan and national policy, and that infrastructure and other measures are secured through complex Section 106 agreements. The close engagement with site promoters and work to progress applications has resulted in some significant achievement including the Reserved Matters (RM) planning application for the first phases of SD B, Land north of Garden Village, (approved in 2021-22) in addition to the detailed approvals obtained for the early phases of site SD C Land south of A240 Penllergaer, in the previous year, and the RM planning application for SD D, Land West of Llangyfelach Road Penderry, which has been approved in 2022-23.

4.3.26 The LPA is continuing to work with the relevant developers and applicants to facilitate the necessary

discharge of conditions applications, in order to enable work on the sites with consent to commence swiftly. Construction has commenced in 2022-23 on SD C, and on the basis of discussions with the developers, it is considered likely that required conditions will be discharged enabling work to commence on SD B in 2023-24. Progress is also continuing on bringing forward other SDA sites, with active pre planning engagement to bring forward planning applications on SD sites A, Land South of Glanffrwyd Road, Pontarddulais; SD E Land North of Clasemont Road, Morriston; SD F Land at Cefn Coed Hospital, Tycoch; and SD H Land North of Waunarlwydd / Fforestfach.

4.3.27 While completions have been lower and slower than expected, it is clear from the ongoing collaborative work being undertaken, and the eagerness of developers to take sites through the planning process, that the Plan-led approach is going to start to successfully drive the delivery of new homes. That said, development of some plan allocations has not progressed as quickly as originally forecasted due to a number of factors, similar to in other parts of South Wales, and despite the efforts of the Council. While many of the sites included in the LDP are considered to be sound and are progressing, the indicators suggest that overall the housing requirement is not being delivered. The Replacement LDP will need to understand and account for the factors that have

contributed to this.

4.3.28 Importantly, though, the review will need to reflect the significant work that has been undertaken by both site promoters and LPA to progress a number of the sites to an advanced stage of the planning process, such that they are well placed to soon deliver homes on site and create excellent examples of new sustainable places, and some further allocated sites may well become commitments in the time period before a Replacement LDP is adopted. The Review will nonetheless provide the opportunity to review the deliverability and viability of existing allocations; while at the same time also consider what other appropriate and sustainable sites could contribute to the housing supply. Any review will also need to take into account the change in evidence of housing requirements since the LDP was adopted. In-line with PPW there must be sufficient sites suitable for the full range of housing types to address the identified needs of communities, which will require an update to the evidence of housing needs. Furthermore, there will need to be a range of sustainable and deliverable sites to allow all sectors and types of house-builder, including nationals, RSLs, SMEs and the custom and self-build sector, the opportunity to contribute to delivering of the proposed housing requirement.

4.3.29 The planning and build status of each allocated site is shown in Appendix 1 of this report. In summary, Table

7 below sets out the current remaining housing supply on allocated sites and others with planning consent.

**Table 7: Capacity of Remaining Housing Supply**

<b>Supply component</b>	<b>Number of homes</b>
Capacity remaining on allocations:	11,828
H1	2,204
H5	117
SDA	9,507
Capacity remaining on other large sites with planning consent	1,336
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,164</b>

**Source AMR 3 Base Date 1/4/2022**

4.3.30 To meet the minimum employment land requirement of 19 hectares, an average take up rate of 2.7 hectares per annum would be expected after LDP adoption. The results from AMR 3 show that since the LDP was adopted, a total of 5.9 hectares of employment land has been permitted on the allocated employment sites. While this is behind the average annual requirement, economic investment and take up is difficult to predict. A range of land remains in the supply ready to accommodate investment opportunities.



**Table 8: Employment Land Consented (in hectares)**

Site name	Allocated area	Planning consents since LDP adoption
SD G: Land north of M4 Junction 46	14	2.7
SD H: Land north of Waunarwydd / Fforestfach	26	0
SD I: Swansea Vale	4	1.89
SD J: Swansea Central Area	4	1.32
SD K: Fabian Way Corridor	12	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>5.91</b>

4.3.31 In addition to the allocation of land at SDAs, the policy framework for economic development includes the safeguarding of existing employment sites for B uses (policies RC 10 and 11). The AMR has found that the policies relating to employment safeguarding are being used appropriately while some appropriate flexibility is being allowed in-line with the policies. However, it may be beneficial to provide further guidance/definition on what constitutes established industrial and commercial land/premises in relation to these policies, since existing employment sites are not identified spatially on the proposals map. Applications for significant office development are being successfully directed to the Central Area in-line with the policy framework (Policy

RC 12).

4.3.32 Overall, the evidence summarised above demonstrates that progress is being made and the general spatial strategy is largely sound and is adhering to the masterplanning and infrastructure plan approach embedded in the plan. However, the review process provides an opportunity to revisit the most appropriate future levels of growth for the Replacement LDP Plan and to ensure the current spatial strategy remains the most appropriate way of meeting the updated growth requirements. Changes since LDP adoption such as the Future Wales spatial strategy for the area including the identification of the National Growth Area, and requirement to establish a vision for each town and city supported by a spatial framework that guides growth and regeneration; National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, PPW updates and the Well-being Plan and corporate priorities will be key inputs.

4.3.33 Undelivered allocations will need to be reviewed in-line with national guidance to ensure they remain deliverable and viable and some may not be re-allocated unless it can be evidenced that they will come forward within the Replacement Plan period. Candidate sites will need to be assessed for potential allocation where required. Future windfall rates will need to be estimated based on evidence available including undertaking urban capacity and village studies and review of the settlement boundary.

4.3.34 Therefore in addition to the growth strategy needing to be updated, while the existing spatial strategy is considered to be sound, the way in which it is delivered will also need to be reviewed. This again necessitates that the Full Review procedure is adopted since the SFR does not allow for pre-deposit public consultation on the scale and distribution of growth.

#### **4.4 Review of Other LDP Topic Areas and Policies**

4.4.1 This section of the report presents the findings of a review into the monitoring and effectiveness of a wide range of LDP policy and topic areas. These have been reviewed having regard to:

- Findings of LDP AMRs;
- Significant contextual changes that have occurred since the Plan's adoption, including changes in national policy and legislation and updates to the evidence base; socio economic factors such as implications arising out of the Covid pandemic; and
- Internal consultation with relevant specialist officers.

4.4.2 This review process is intended to provide an overview of whether a policy is functioning effectively, whether any amendments are likely to be needed and whether any policies should be removed as part of the Plan revision process. The policy assessment undertaken to

date is not considered to be definitive and further detailed consideration will be given to the need to revise the Plan's policies as part of the Replacement LDP process.

#### **Detailed Housing Policies**

##### **Affordable Housing**

4.4.3 The Affordable Housing Strategy (Policy H 2) sets a target for the delivery of a minimum 3,310 affordable units over the Plan period through the following measures:

- Setting targets for on-site provision of affordable housing to be delivered as part of residential proposals where appropriate and viable;
- Allocating Local Needs Housing Exception Sites, which will deliver local needs affordable housing as a majority proportion of homes on such sites, supported by a minority element of market housing to meet local need; and
- Providing a policy framework for determining 100% affordable housing exception sites.

4.4.4 The policy framework was informed by an Affordable Housing Viability Study and LHMA, both of which will need to be updated as part of the LDP review.

4.4.5 Monitoring data indicates that 1,607 affordable units

had been built between 2010 - 2022 which represents 27% of all overall completions over the period. Whilst this is less than the numerical target, it reflects a number of factors affecting housebuilding in general, including the slower than anticipated progress in the strategic housing allocations being delivered.

- 4.4.6 Good progress has been made in delivery of Policy H 5 'Exception Sites' for majority affordable housing. This includes site H5.5 Land at Summerland Lane (completed 61 units), H5.4 Land adjoining Pennard Drive (construction nearing completion with partial occupation – currently 44 of the 70 units are complete), and planning consent granted for H5.6 Land at Higher Lane, Langland (31 units). Two further 'H5 Sites' are at pre planning application stage. Two 100% affordable housing exception sites have been consented since the LDP was adopted, with 41 affordable units at Land off George Manning Way, Gowerton; and 44 at Pencefnarda Farm, Gorseinon; while 20 units consented before LDP adoption have been completed at Land Off Rhydypanyd Road & Mynydd Gelli Wastad Road, Morriston.
- 4.4.7 Encouragingly, the allocated strategic sites have secured significant numbers of new affordable homes through the issuing of planning consents for SD B, C and D in-line with the LDP site policies. Therefore affordable housing completions over the coming years are expected to increase significantly.

- 4.4.8 The AMRs have recorded that policy compliant percentages of affordable housing have been provided on non-strategic allocations and windfalls with many 100% schemes delivered in many cases by RSLs. In a limited number of cases some proposals have needed to provide a lower percentage than the target based on viability following detailed viability negotiations with the LPA in-line with the policy framework.
- 4.4.9 The Council has a Council homebuilding programme - More Homes. To date 81 Council homes have been completed at Colliers Way, Parc Yr Helig, Bryn House and Hillview. A number of further More Homes sites are in the pipeline.
- 4.4.10 In the preparation of the Replacement LDP, changes to national planning policy / guidance will need to be taken into consideration. Of particular importance, Future Wales identifies affordable housing provision as a key priority. Policy 7 requires planning authorities to identify sites for affordable housing led developments further to the WG letter, Increasing The Supply of Affordable Homes Through Planning (July 2019), which requires LPAs to allocate them in their LDPs. Future Wales also gives an estimate that of the additional homes needed in the South West Wales Region between 2019-20 to 2023-24, 44% should be affordable homes. These estimates provide part of the evidence and context on which Housing Requirements

for Development Plans can be based and will inform the LHMA update.

4.4.11 The Council has commissioned a new LHMA following the new methodology, guidance and tool. This will provide a thorough analysis of housing need data. Preparation of the Replacement LDP will need to consider the most appropriate policy response in the context of the revised housing need identified in the context of the overall housing growth requirement, alongside a thorough updated consideration of viability aspects and a review of potentially suitable sites to contribute towards meeting the demand.

4.4.12 The affordable housing policies are largely considered to be working however some changes are required, including the following:

4.4.13 It should be clarified that all affordable homes, including those provided through either planning obligations or planning conditions, must meet the new Welsh Development Quality Requirements (WDQR 2021) Creating Beautiful Homes and Places.

4.4.14 In light of the changes made by Welsh Government to Acceptable Cost Guidance it will be necessary to clarify the methodology to be used for transferring affordable homes to the Council or nominated RSL.

4.4.15 The target percentages and thresholds for triggering

affordable housing requirements in Policy H 3 will need to be reviewed through an updated Viability assessment.

4.4.16 Further clarification would be beneficial with regard to the exemption for conversion, demolition or change of use of commercial property.

4.4.17 In cases where the target percentage of affordable dwellings to be provided as part of a scheme results in a fraction of a unit, clarification is required that the developer may either round up the dwelling figure to the nearest full unit or round down the dwelling figure and provide the remaining fractional amount as a financial contribution.

4.4.18 The H 3 target percentages are based on SHPZs which are comprised of groupings of electoral wards and these SHPZs will need to be reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate and for example in terms of the amendments made to Ward boundaries.

4.4.19 A number of allocated H 5 sites have been delivered, and further sites will become commitments with planning consent. Sites that have not been progressed will be reassessed in-line with the Development Plans Manual. Candidate sites will be considered for appropriate majority affordable housing sites.

4.4.20 In the case of development proposals for 100%

affordable homes on Affordable Housing Exception sites (as defined in LDP Policy H 6), clarification is required that the Council will not typically allow the affordable homes to be intermediate tenures that would permit occupiers to staircase to full ownership of the home. The only exception to this will be instances where the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that secure arrangements will be in place to guarantee the relevant home(s) will, upon re-sales, always be sold or let as affordable housing. National planning policy is clear that affordable housing exception sites are not appropriate for market housing.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation**

4.4.21 The LDP includes a criteria based Policy H 7 for determining proposals for new, and extensions to existing, Gypsy and Traveller sites. This policy was informed by Welsh Government Circular 005/2018: Planning for Gypsy, Traveller and Showpeople Sites.

4.4.22 The LDP does not currently allocate land for new Gypsy and Traveller site provision on the basis of the assessed need (evidenced by the Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) 2015) and the land available with lawful use to accommodate it when the LDP was adopted. The LDP AMR 3 has identified that the seven additional pitches which were planned to be built to accommodate the immediate unmet need by the end of 2021 at Pant y Blawd Road have not yet

commenced, therefore breaching the trigger point of the monitoring indicator.

4.4.23 Future Wales has identified that the future SDP for the region should identify the Gypsy and Traveller need for pitches. However, the SDP will likely not be in place ahead of the Replacement LDP being adopted. Therefore, as part of the preparation of the Replacement LDP, a review will need to be undertaken regarding the latest need position for additional pitches in Swansea (which will be identified from the most up to date GTAA), and the available land with lawful use that can accommodate that need within the timescales required.

### **Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs)**

4.4.24 LDP Policy H 9 on HMOs defines specific thresholds, above which further concentrations of HMOs will normally be deemed a harmful concentration. The thresholds were identified based on an understanding of current HMO concentrations, likely future demand, current HMO supply, and other available evidence. Supplementary Planning Guidance was adopted in December 2019 to support the policy.

4.4.25 The LDP AMR has monitored the concentration of HMOs within the HMO Management Area which is defined on the Proposals Map. Each AMR has concluded that the concentration of HMOs in this

designated area has not varied significantly from the baseline. The policy is generally considered to be operating as intended. However, it will be necessary to review this, along with the supporting SPG, for example with regard to assessing any changes in HMO concentrations in areas outside of the Management Area, and for any useful minor alterations or clarification to the policy text that would be appropriate.

### **Purpose Built Student Accommodation (PBSA)**

4.4.26 Higher Education makes an important contribution to the local economy. LDP policy H 11 requires PBSA to, in the first instance, assess the availability and suitability of potential sites and premises within the Central Area defined on the LDP Proposals Map. It identifies that it is preferable that student needs are met as far as possible by modern purpose built and managed schemes with the space and facilities more suited to students' needs in appropriate Swansea Central Area locations where there is good access to services, facilities and public transport to the University buildings. Such development has the potential to increase footfall, and so contribute towards enhancement of City Centre vitality and viability. Supplementary Planning Guidance was adopted in December 2019 to support the policy.

4.4.27 Several significant schemes have been completed in the Central Area since Plan adoption including

Coppergate, 17-18 The Kingsway, 307 bedspaces; Former Oldway Centre, Orchard Street, 556 bedspaces; and Mariner Street, 780 bedspaces.

4.4.28 The AMR does not routinely monitor planning consents for PBSA against the policy H 11 criteria, and this could be a useful addition to the monitoring framework. However, delivery has been monitored separately and the policy is generally considered to be operating as intended with the majority of new PBSA developments being guided to Central Area sites. Nonetheless the policy will be reviewed to ensure it remains appropriate and up to date.

### **Other detailed housing policies**

4.4.29 The LDP also contains policies on Ancillary Residential Development (Policy H 8) and Specialist Housing (Policy H 10). These policies are not routinely monitored through the AMR but will be reviewed in the preparation of the Replacement LDP with Development Management colleagues to ensure they are operating successfully and remain appropriate and up to date.

4.4.30 A further important factor that will need to be taken into account in the Replacement LDP is the prevalence of second homes and short-term holiday lets in any local areas in-line with proposed amendments to PPW summarised in Chapter 2 of this report.

4.4.31 The Replacement LDP will also consider if there are any gaps in the existing policy coverage in order to effectively determine the types of planning applications coming forward such as large scale multiple occupancy flat schemes with shared ancillary community facilities.

### **Regeneration and Commercial Development**

4.4.32 LDP Policy RC 1 recognises that the regeneration of Swansea Central Area is a corporate priority of the Council and is at the heart of efforts to drive forward the economy of the whole of the Swansea Bay City Region. This remains relevant as a fundamental Corporate priority.

4.4.33 Policies RC 2 to RC 8 set out the retail and associated uses hierarchy and policies of the Plan. Future Wales reiterates the long established principle of a Town Centres First approach. It states that significant new commercial, retail, education, health, leisure, and public services facilities must be located within town and city centres and that a sequential approach must be used to inform the identification of the best location for these developments and they should be identified in LDPs. It is for the LPA to determine what constitutes a development of a significant scale. It also places a driver on making town centres multi-functional places. Policy 2 of Future Wales states that LDPs should establish a vision for each town and city supported by a spatial framework that guides growth and regeneration.

Set against these national policy aspirations is the implications of the new TAN 15, having regard to the areas affected by flood risk throughout the Swansea central Area. This updated national policy context will need to be reflected upon in a holistic manner in the preparation of the Replacement LDP.

4.4.34 The Swansea Retail and Leisure Study (2015) forms the evidence base for the existing policies and will need to be updated for the Replacement LDP. The updated study will help inform the Replacement LDP in terms of retail strategy and policies. Consideration will also need to be undertaken in response to the challenges faced by many retail centres in order to inform the merits or otherwise of how future LDP policy can respond most effectively.

4.4.35 The Central Area and all retail centre boundaries will need to be reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate and up to date.

4.4.36 The policies are largely considered to be working effectively but will need to be reviewed in light of Future Wales and PPW, Building Better Places: The Planning System Delivering Resilient and Brighter Futures – Placemaking and the Covid-19 Recovery (July 2020), and the updated evidence base and review of retail centres.

## **Policy PS 2 Placemaking and Place Management**

- 4.4.37 Placemaking is at the heart of the LDP and the Council's strategic planning agenda which has since been introduced into national policy through Future Wales and PPW.
- 4.4.38 LDP policy PS 2 sets out that development should enhance the quality of places and spaces, and respond positively to aspects of local context and character that contribute towards a sense of place; and lists placemaking criteria for developments to achieve. To assist in delivering the placemaking agenda the Council have adopted a number of Placemaking for Residential Development SPGs to show how key placemaking objectives and policy requirements set out in the LDP and national policy can be integrated into proposals. These have been prepared to guide different types and scales of development including, householder development, infill and backland residential development, large scale residential proposals, and proposals in the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). These have been developed in the context of recent placemaking updates to PPW and to reflect the recent Future Wales publication and the identified Strategic Placemaking principles.
- 4.4.39 The LDP policies and the supporting SPG are considered to be working effectively in driving national

objectives for placemaking in Swansea. The conclusions from the AMRs indicates that SDA sites are being progressed in line with site masterplans and placemaking principles.

- 4.4.40 Nevertheless, in line with the recent updates to PPW the wording of Policy PS 2 will be reviewed to ensure it fully reflects the PPW National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes which will be key to informing the preparation of development plans going forward and the Strategic Placemaking principles set out in Future Wales.

### **SDA's – Strategic Development / Masterplanning**

- 4.4.41 LDP policy SD 1 identifies Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) allocated at 12 locations to provide new homes and opportunities for job creation and commercial investment at a strategic scale. Each site has its own strategic policy SD A to SD L setting out placemaking principles and development requirements supported by more detailed development requirements in appendix 3, while general masterplanning and placemaking principles for SDA are included in policy SD 2.
- 4.4.42 Some of these SDAs now have planning consent and so the LDP will need to be amended to reflect that some of the sites will be commitments in the Replacement LDP. The planning status of all currently



allocated sites is set out in Appendix 1.

4.4.43 As noted earlier in this report, all remaining existing allocations will be reviewed in-line with national guidance in order to inform whether they will be allocated in the Replacement LDP and incorporate any refinements required to the concept plans and policies in order to reflect the evolution of the sites based on up to date deliverability and viability evidence and the spatial and growth strategy of the Plan.

4.4.44 The AMRs have noted that the SDAs which have achieved planning consent have come forward in-line with the masterplanning, placemaking and sustainability principles of the Plan. The policies and concept plans approach are considered to be working effectively, but will need to be reviewed in order to ensure they remain up to date with regard to the latest deliverability and viability evidence.

### **ER 1 and ER2 – Ecosystems and Resilience**

4.4.45 Policy ER 1 sets the policy framework to ensure that all development is resilient to, and mitigates against, the effects of climate change. This is a corporate priority, and is emphasised in the Council's declaration of emergency in relation to both climate and nature.

4.4.46 In 2019 the Welsh Government declared a climate

emergency in order to co-ordinate action nationally and locally to help combat the threats of climate change. Climate change is highlighted as a main challenge within Future Wales as increasing temperatures and extreme weather events caused by climate change are putting pressure on ecosystems, infrastructure, built environment, landscape and cultural heritage, which all contribute to social, economic and ecological resilience. Climate change is an equality issue as it will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable communities in Wales and the wider world.

4.4.47 Future Wales emphasises that the pressure on water resources will likely increase due to climate change and the availability, supply and management of water will be of increasing importance, as will the location of development and the safeguarding of resources.

4.4.48 Policy 8 of Future Wales seeks to ensure flood risk management due to climate change is managed, whilst policy 9 seeks to ensure that ecological networks are safeguarded and created in order to allow adaptation due to climate change.

4.4.49 PPW emphasises how the planning system plays a key role in tackling the climate emergency through the decarbonisation of the energy system and the sustainable management of natural resources (para 3.30). Furthermore, the planning system must make sure the right developments are built in the right places.

4.4.50 Policy ER 2 ensures that development maintains and enhances the county's GI network. The Council has adopted a GI strategy for the Central Area and there is an emerging county strategy.

4.4.51 Both Future Wales and PPW require development plans to undertake a GI Assessment and to include policies for its safeguarding and to identify opportunities where existing and potential GI could be maximised. These Assessments can help develop a robust approach to enhancing biodiversity, increasing ecological resilience and improving well-being outcomes, as well as identifying key strategic opportunities for restoring, maintaining, creating and connecting key green infrastructure features. Area Statements (together with other sources of information, such as the Local Nature Recovery Action Plan) can inform this assessment process, and improve the resilience of the built environment, by identifying opportunities to use nature-based solutions that address local issues such as mitigating the impact of climate change, flood risk or air pollution, or improving availability/accessibility of green space. The evidence will inform wider placemaking issues with regard to site selection and development.

4.4.52 The Replacement LDP will need to consider how to incorporate GI policies which clearly emphasise the cross cutting nature and need for multi-functionality for

example in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, open space, flood risk alleviation, drainage, active travel, landscape, health and wellbeing, and placemaking.

4.4.53 Biodiversity policy within Future Wales (Policy 9) and PPW embodies a strengthening of the role and importance of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience within the planning system, following on from the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 which introduced an enhanced biodiversity and resilience of ecosystems duty (the S6 duty) for public authorities requiring them to seek to maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystem resilience in the exercise of all their functions. The emphasis on placemaking within PPW is also relevant in respect of complying with this duty.

4.4.54 Guidance on securing biodiversity enhancements was issued in 2019 and further clarification on the issue is anticipated in the next iteration of PPW, which may require amendments to LDP policy or related SPG.

4.4.55 The adopted Biodiversity SPG and Trees SPG provide detailed guidance on the implementation of national policy, and the suite of detailed LDP policies (ER6, ER8, ER9 and ER11).

4.4.56 The policy framework will be reflected in the Replacement LDP site allocations. Having particular regard to local ecological designations (SINCs) which

form part of the ecosystem resilience of the county. The Replacement LDP process will need to be informed by an ecological survey of unimplemented LDP allocations and appropriate levels of information to inform potential new allocations to provide the most up to date information to inform implementation of the stepwise process advocated in PPW, TAN 6, LDP Policy and Biodiversity SPG to LDP site selection.

4.4.57 Policies ER 6, 8 and 9 need to be reviewed in order to reflect changes in terminology introduced in 2019 by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (known as the 2019 Regulations) as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the Natura 2000 site network.

4.4.58 While they are unlikely to be amended significantly, ER 3: Green Wedges will need to be reviewed as part of the development plan review process (PPW para 3.64) to ensure they remain appropriate and only designated where there is demonstrable need to protect the urban form and where alternative policy mechanisms such as settlement boundaries would not be sufficiently robust.

4.4.59 Future Wales policies 19 and 30 state that Green Belts must be identified via Strategic Development plans rather than LDPs therefore it will not be appropriate based on current guidance for a green belt to be considered.

4.4.60 In regard to Policy ER4, the need for a LVA or LVIA and Colour Impact Assessment to accompany applications within the Gower AONB (where a case officer considers necessary) needs to be made explicit within the policy. Furthermore the policy should be linked to the revised Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG.

4.4.61 Policy ER 5 – Landscape Protection relates to Special Landscape Areas (SLAs) - non-statutory designations that define local areas of high landscape importance, which may be unique, exceptional or distinctive to the area. Planning authorities should apply these designations where there is good reason to believe that normal planning policies cannot provide the necessary protection. The extent of SLA designations will be re-assessed for the Replacement LDP to ensure it remains the most appropriate and the area covered requires additional protection.

4.4.62 Policy ER7 – Undeveloped Coast – needs to be reviewed having regard to PPW (section 6.5), which states that development should normally seek to avoid coastal locations, unless it needs to be on the coast. Development plans may identify areas likely to be suitable for development as well as those subject to significant constraints and be unsuitable for development. Areas subject to constraints or considered unsuitable for development may include those where:

- conservation or enhancement of the natural and historic environment requires development to be limited;
- visual intrusion and inter-visibility between land and sea will need to be carefully considered;
- there are specific policies to be pursued in Heritage Coast areas;
- access to coastal paths should be protected; and
- there may be risks of erosion, flooding or land instability.

4.4.63 Policy ER 7 needs to be revised to include reference to the Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment, 2017 and the Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG. The Seascape Character Assessment does not define a “coastal zone” with an inland boundary for planning policy purposes as inter-visibility often extends for many miles inland a defined ‘coastal zone’. However, the extent of coastal landscape character (such as cliffs, dunes, salt marsh) is defined spatially in the study. The inter-visibility mapping provides an additional but separate ‘setting’ layer which can aid the seascape impact assessment of planning applications. Reference to seascape impact assessments accompanying planning applications when considered necessary needs to be included within policy ER 7.

4.4.64 Policy ER 10 relating to Geological Sites needs to be

reviewed having regard to PPW (section 6.3) which states that Geological features are a key part of our natural environment, and protecting geodiversity underpins the wider protection and management of our natural resources, including land availability, renewable energy potential, groundwater supply and flood risk. Regionally Important Geodiversity Sites (RIGS) are non-statutory site designations that recognise locally or regionally important geological and geomorphological landscape features. RIGS are selected for their educational, scientific, historic and aesthetic qualities, to and designated through development plans. The LDP should protect the features and qualities for which RIGS have been designated, and are encouraged to promote opportunities for the incorporation of geological features within the design of development, particularly where relevant evidence is provided by GI Assessments.

4.4.65 Policy ER 10 should be reviewed in order to ensure all the designated RIGS are identified and the link to the inclusion of geodiversity within GI Assessments, where appropriate, is strengthened.

### **IO 1 –Infrastructure / Planning Obligations**

4.4.66 Planning Obligations, seeks to ensure that new development is accompanied by an appropriate level of infrastructure, facilities, services and related works where they are necessary to make the development

acceptable. Contributions are secured through the use of planning obligations, as set out in Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or through the use of planning conditions.

- 4.4.67 Planning obligations seek contributions from developers to enhance the quality of a development, provide community benefits and infrastructure, and mitigate any negative impacts that may arise as a consequence of the development.
- 4.4.68 LDP Policy IO 1 is considered to be working effectively and contributions are being received (subject to viability considerations) to mitigate the impacts of new development and help provide necessary infrastructure such as recreation and open space, community and educational facilities. However, there are areas of clarification required on particular topics due to the supporting Section 106 SPG being out of date. Therefore a thorough review of the elements that need to be updated will be undertaken and where appropriate incorporated through the Replacement LDP policies and by developing a new Section 106 SPG in tandem.
- 4.4.69 The evidence base which informed the formulation of these policies will be reviewed as part of the process. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) identified the level of infrastructure that will be provided and required over the Plan period. As part of the Replacement LDP

process, an updated assessment of infrastructure provision and needs will be undertaken to identify the capacity and availability of existing and planned infrastructure. There will be a need to work closely with utility providers to have regard to their most recent plans for improvement and the availability of funding so that infrastructure and development are aligned. The Replacement LDP strategy will need to reflect the availability of existing and planned infrastructure.

- 4.4.70 Infrastructure directly relates to a number of placemaking principles identified in the revised PPW. Both PPW and FW now place more of a focus on new types of infrastructure, such as electric vehicle charging infrastructure, digital infrastructure, mobile telecommunications and GI, all of which will need to be considered during the review.
- 4.4.71 Updated high level viability testing is required to inform the review of the planning obligations policy and to evidence whether the requirements and targets within the Plan should be amended. A Regional Viability Model for the Region has been developed to create a consistent methodological approach when setting targets and undertaking site specific viability assessments. The viability analysis will need to reflect the challenging circumstances currently facing developers in terms of increasing materials costs, placemaking requirements, and the introduction of new sustainable drainage and biodiversity requirements

since the LDP was adopted including on costs and land take.

### **SI1 – Health and Well-being**

4.4.72 Health is a principle element embedded within the Well-being of Future Generations Act which places an emphasis on taking a holistic, long term and collaborative approach to achieving well-being through placemaking. One of the seven goals is to achieve a healthier Wales, whilst another is a more equal Wales, which both have direct links to public health, equality, health care and services. The new theme of placemaking and sustainable places in PPW are relevant to this topic area and improved health is one of the objectives of Future Wales. Health and well-being is therefore presented as a key objective in WG policy. PPW recognises that HIA can make an important contribution to plan making and the recognition that evidence to health impacts (on physical and mental health) can help the planning system to develop stronger and more coherent approaches towards maximising health and well being. Consideration of the necessity for a HIA will be considered as part of LDP review. The LPA will have regard to any regulations and guidance in respect of HIA as part of the assessment processes associated with the LDP.

4.4.73 Strategic Policy SI 1 is the overarching policy for Health and Well being which aims to reduce health inequalities

and encourage healthy lifestyles. It recognises the importance of creating sustainable places that give people the opportunity to live healthy lifestyles. However, given the overarching placemaking approach adopted in Swansea, the promotion of health and well being is integrated through various policies. It is currently therefore underused as a standalone policy as the criteria is addressed within the suite of placemaking policies. Therefore, health and well-being will be an overarching consideration that will have overriding influence throughout the Replacement LDP. However, the review will need to consider whether it should remain as a stand alone overarching policy or whether it should be amalgamated under a new overarching theme of sustainable placemaking and interwoven throughout policies, incorporating the concept of 'Health in All Policies' (HiAP). The LDP goes some way to achieve this, with policies relating to air, noise and light pollution, land contamination, transport, all relating to public health impacts. Consideration will be given whether the potential implications on physical and mental health implications due to development should be given greater emphasis in policies within the Replacement LDP.

### **SI 5 / 6 Protection / Provision of Open Space**

4.4.74 The LDP includes policies in relation to the protection of and the provision of new public open space (Policies SI 5 and SI 6). The policies together require the

protection of existing public open spaces and includes a requirement for the provision of new open space on planning applications for new housing proposals for ten dwellings or more. These policies deliver key benefits for health and well-being.

4.4.75 An assessment of existing public open space provision including deficiencies by area is set out on the Open Space Assessment (OSA). This provides the evidence base with which to assess the need for open space provision within areas of Swansea as part of development. The OSA is currently in the process of being reviewed to ensure it will be up to date to inform the Replacement LDP. Similarly, an updated Planning Obligations SPG and GI SPG will be prepared in tandem with the Replacement LDP which will include more detailed guidance on securing open space provision on new development.

4.4.76 The findings of the AMR's (indicators 76, 77) indicates that Policies SI 5 and SI 6 are being implemented effectively in terms of ensuring there is no deficiency of open space as a result of new development. The policies will therefore be retained albeit the wording will be reviewed to inform the Replacement LDP.

## **Policy HC1 – Historic and Cultural Environment**

### **Welsh Language**

4.4.77 A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language is one of the seven well-being goals identified in the Well-being of Future Generations Act, which is also embedded in PPW and the sustainable placemaking principles. The importance of the Welsh Language is also highlighted by the Welsh Government's ambitious target to achieve one million Welsh speakers by the year 2050.

4.4.78 For the most part, the evidence base is unlikely to have changed significantly, but a review of the latest statistical data (the Census) will be needed to determine whether there will be any need to amend the extent of the designated Welsh Language Sensitive Area (WLSA), and a review of the boundary to take account of changes to Ward boundaries; and consideration of whether the policy thresholds require revision.

4.4.79 No specific issues have been identified in the AMR in respect of the operation of the LDP policies for the Welsh language. In general, the policy appears to be working well. However, the AMR has identified that Policy HC3: requires clarification when a WLIA or WLAP will be required as part of submitted proposals.

4.4.80 Welsh Language Impact will need to be considered as an important component of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal for the Replacement LDP.

### **Heritage**

4.4.81 For the most part, the built and historic environment is unlikely to have changed significantly in respect of the evidence base, but areas that may require updating include the Schedule of Buildings of Local Importance (to take into account losses and possible additions) and the recent Conservation Area Appraisals.

4.4.82 No specific issues were identified in the AMR in respect of the operation of the LDP policies for the Built Environment and Historic Heritage. Issues that may need to be considered as part of the review include changing the terminology used to bring it in line with the latest guidance (e.g. Historic Environment rather than Historic Heritage and Historic Assets of Special Local Interest rather than Buildings of Local Importance).

### **CV 1- 5 - Countryside and Village Development**

4.4.83 The LDP sets out a number of policies to facilitate appropriate development outside of the main urban area whilst at the same time seeking to protect the integrity of the countryside and quality of the surrounding landscape in these areas. These include

Policy CV1 Key Villages which sets out settlement boundaries for 18 key villages which are considered suitable for accommodating small scale development to deliver appropriate housing, community facilities and sustainable rural enterprises for these villages. The LDP seeks to ensure protection of the countryside for the economic, social and environmental benefits provided.

4.4.84 Policy CV2 Development in the Countryside seeks to protect the countryside from inappropriate development and ensure that only in exceptional circumstances outside of defined settlement boundaries development will be acceptable. It sets out acceptable exceptions with the overarching principle seeking to create more sustainable rural communities.

4.4.85 Policy CV 3 Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside seeks to retain rural dwellings that make a positive contribution to the County's rural character and allows for the replacement of non descript or poorly designed rural dwellings with better designed dwellings that enhance the appearance of the countryside.

4.4.86 Policy CV 4 Conversion of Rural Buildings seeks to strictly control the conversion of traditional rural buildings to ensure that proposals contributes to a more sustainable economy and does not detract from the special qualities of the County's countryside.



4.4.87 Finally, Policy CV 5 Farm Diversification recognises national policy and guidance that many economic activities can be sustainably located on farms and support farm diversification provided such schemes are small scale and integrate well with surrounding countryside. The policy sets out detailed criteria with which such schemes will be judged.

4.4.88 Future Wales includes Policies 4 and 5 which sets out the WG objectives to support sustainable and vibrant rural communities and supports appropriate and proportionate growth in rural towns. The Replacement LDP will need to identify the rural communities, assess needs and set out policies that support them. Policies will need to consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation could be reversed and consider the role of new and market housing, employment opportunities and local services and greater mobility in tackling these challenges.

4.4.89 Further, in line with these policies the Replacement LDP must plan positively to meet the employment needs of rural areas including employment arising from foundational economy, agricultural and forestry sector, including proposals for diversification, start ups and micro businesses. WG strongly supports the development of innovative and emerging technology businesses and sectors to help rural areas unlock their full potential. PPW reinforces placemaking in rural areas and rural policies will need to fully reflect these

aspirations. Similarly, PPW is clear that the Replacement LDP will need to plan positively to meet rural employment needs by identifying policies in the LDP and where a need is identified allocate new rural sites for economic development however where these are required these are likely to be small and generally be located adjacent to defined settlement boundaries preferably where there is public transport provision. Further the plan will need to include criteria based policies to consider proposals outside settlement boundaries. Meeting rural employment needs will need to be considered as part of the Employment Land Review to support the Replacement LDP.

4.4.90 The AMR's produced since Plan adoption indicate that the policies have been successful in facilitating appropriate development within the key villages and limiting development in the countryside to exceptional circumstances. Aside from acceptable householder development this has included facilitating agricultural development, tourism related development and replacement dwellings. However, it has been identified that a number of the policies can be strengthened and supported with additional clarification in particular CV2 and CV4. Policies will need to fully reflect Future Wales aspirations above.

4.4.91 Similarly, the Replacement LDP will need to be informed by a new key villages assessment as part of the work to inform the preparation of the Preferred

Strategy. The Council will need to undertake a comprehensive review of settlement boundaries as part of this work and to reflect necessary changes to boundaries as a result of new planning permissions.

### **TR1 – Tourism and Recreation Development**

4.4.92 PPW recognises that the role of tourism is vital to economic prosperity and job creation in parts of Wales, and requires plans to provide a framework to maintain and develop well-located, good quality tourism facilities. Future Wales identified tourism as a potential growth area for the South West Wales region, and supports high quality development across the region to ensure all communities are able to benefit from their landscapes, natural and historic environment, heritage assets and visitor attractions to grow their economies.

4.4.93 Welsh Government introduced a package of measures in 2022 in order address the issues of second homes and holiday lets in Wales. This includes introducing three new planning use classes – a primary home, a second home and short-term holiday accommodation. LPAs, where they have evidence, are now able to make amendments to the planning system to require planning permission for change of use from one class to another, where evidence shows that the number of holiday homes/second homes in an area is a contributing factor to a range of issues, such as lack of affordable housing, poor community cohesion etc.

National planning policy is also being amended to give local authorities the ability to control the number of second homes and holiday lets in any community. As a result of the new legislation, research and evidence must be gathered to make an informed decision on whether greater planning controls are desirable on second homes and holiday homes in any part of the County.

4.4.94 Policy TR1 also links to the Marine Plan, especially with regard on potential impacts on Seascape. The Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment is an important evidence base for consideration of development on the undeveloped and developed coasts of the County. Para 6.58 PPW 11, highlights that Area Statements and other locally based plans for coastal areas provide relevant information on how the economic potential of the coast may be unlocked in a sustainable manner, and how undeveloped coastal areas should be protected from development.

4.4.95 Since the LDP was adopted, the range and type of buildings and holiday accommodation units being developed has increased significantly, and many are not addressed specifically within the LDP. As a result, the AMRs have identified that some LDP policies require clarification in relation to types of tourism accommodation, with regard to the definitions and within the glossary.

- 4.4.96 Further clarification on the contents of a TNDIA is also required, as many applications are accompanied by statistics but no information on the proposed development itself to demonstrate that it is an economically viable, sustainable long term business that will contribute to the rural economy.
- 4.4.97 PPW 5.5.2 states that in some places there may be a need to limit new development to avoid damage to the environment or the amenity of residents and visitors. Specific areas of the County continue to face pressure for increased development, particularly tourism accommodation development. Baseline evidence and data will need to be examined in order to aid a review of tourism policies to determine whether the County, or specific areas of the County, have sufficient capacity to accommodate additional tourism developments.
- 4.4.98 An important piece of evidence base which influenced the LDP with regard to caravan and camping within the AONB is the Gower AONB Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study for caravan and campsites. This piece of background evidence is currently being updated in order to take account of newer forms of tourism accommodation (such as pods and yurts) and to see if any landscape changes have occurred since the first Study as a result of increased development. This will provide an up to date assessment for the Replacement LDP.
- 4.4.99 The LDP is based on evidence of bedspace numbers and accommodation types, which demonstrated a shortage of holiday accommodation that was genuinely available for short-term holiday lets, rather than as a private second home/holiday home which is not sub-let. The AMRs demonstrate that a considerable number of new short-term let bedspaces for holiday accommodation have been created throughout the County since LDP adoption. As a consequence the underlying data and evidence require updating to assess whether the policies still address key issues identified.
- 4.4.100 The Gower AONB Management Plan is currently being reviewed and this will help inform future development within the AONB.
- 4.4.101 As well as addressing the availability of accommodation, the Replacement LDP will need to also examine the development of leisure facilities. Current LDP policies support the development of new leisure uses, within the city centre and waterfront areas and within the countryside where appropriate. Very few such developments have come forward within the lifetime of the LDP, with the exception for example of the Arena, the majority of applications being for accommodation, and policies should be reviewed to determine whether they sufficiently facilitate developers to bring forward schemes.

## EU1 - Energy and Utilities

4.4.102 The LDP contains a number of policies to facilitate renewable and low carbon energy development. Policy EU 1 sets out criteria for consideration of such schemes within Strategic Search Areas and Local Search Areas, Policy EU2 sets out that larger residential and non residential schemes will need to be supported by a comprehensive Energy Assessment, Policy EU 3 seeks to ensure that significant energy consuming developments facilitate the development of District Heating Networks. In respect of Utilities Policy EU4 seeks to ensure adequate utility infrastructure is in place to serve developments, with developers contributing to secure improvements where there are deficiencies. Policy EU5 sets out how proposals for telecommunications and digital technology will be assessed.

4.4.103 To inform the policies in the LDP the Council undertook a Renewable Energy Assessment (REA) in 2018 which evaluated the potential energy capacity of renewable and low carbon technologies in the County. This evidence base will need to be updated to inform the Replacement LDP.

4.4.104 Future Wales sets out that by 2040 it seeks a Wales where people live in *places which are decarbonised and climate resilient*. It sets out the policy framework

for determination of renewable energy proposals including the introduction of Priority Areas within which there will be a presumption in favour of wind and solar schemes. Policies 16 and 17 sets out Welsh Government strong support for developing renewable and low carbon energy from all technologies at all scales and to facilitate District Heat Networks within Priority Areas.

4.4.105 TAN 8 was revoked following the publication of Future Wales. The north eastern part of the County is within the Future Wales defined Pre Assessed area for wind where there is a presumption in favour of large scale wind-energy development (including repowering) in these areas subject to criteria. Swansea is also identified as a District Heat Network priority Area, within which planning authorities should identify opportunities for District Heat Networks and plan positively for their implementation.

4.4.106 PPW set out the Energy hierarchy and will expect all new development to mitigate the causes of climate change in accordance with the energy hierarchy for planning. It sets out a number of issues to be considered when preparing the Replacement LDP:

- consider including policies that require major applications to be accompanied by an Energy Report

- identify strategic sites to identify opportunities to require higher sustainable building standards, including zero carbon in the development plan
  - seek to maximise the potential of renewable energy by linking the development plan with other local authority strategies
  - Using Local Area Energy Plans or other evidence to set challenging but achievable targets for renewable energy in development plans considering the renewable energy resource they have available
  - Consider the energy needs of site allocation development proposals in collaboration with grid operators
  - In order to facilitate local and regional energy planning local authorities must develop an evidence base (which can include a LAEP) to inform development of renewable and low energy policies
  - Development plans should support opportunities for heat networks, local renewable and low carbon energy generation schemes, and the co location of new proposals and land allocations with existing developments, heat suppliers and heat users.
  - PPW introduces the Energy Hierarchy and requires planning authorities to plan positively for local power generation including providing for the co-location of developments to enable local heat opportunities, maximising the use of waste heat, district heating and combined heat and power.
- Assess the opportunities for low carbon energy in the area and use the evidence to establish spatial policies in the development plan which identify the most appropriate locations for development of energy development below 10Mw and include policies with the criteria for development outside identified areas will be determined.
- 4.4.107 The policy framework, evidence base and documents for this topic will need to be reconsidered and revisited in the light of changes to national policy and consenting regimes and changes in renewable energy technologies. All proposals for onshore generating projects between 10MW and 350MW capacity are now dealt with by Welsh Ministers with Local Authorities determining only those proposals below an installed capacity of 10MW. As a result of new national policy above, Policy EU 1 will need to be amended to reflect the Future Wales Pre Assessed areas for large scale wind at national level and to identify the most appropriate locations for development of energy developments below 10MW. Similarly with the requirement for heat networks now forming part of Future Wales policy, it may not be necessary to include the current policy EU 3. The current policies focus on solar, wind and District Heating Networks. Consideration will be given to the need to provide advice on facilitating domestic renewable energy technologies which are generally covered under permitted development.

4.4.108 Furthermore, the Welsh Government clarified (March 2022) that where the site area of a proposed solar PV array development includes areas of Best Most Valuable (BMV) agricultural land, considerable weight should be given to protecting BMV land from development, because of its special importance, and unless other significant material considerations indicate otherwise it will be necessary to refuse permission. This should be clarified within policy EU 1 of the Replacement LDP.

4.4.109 Overall the AMR's produced since plan adoption indicate that the policies have been successful in facilitating an increase in renewable energy capacity within the County in line with EU 1. To date however no district heating networks, either stand alone or as part of a proposed development have been delivered. However, increasing capacity is reliant on developers bringing such schemes forward.

### **T 1 – Transport, Movement and Connectivity**

4.4.110 The LDP contains a strategic policy on Transport Measures and Infrastructure which takes a coherent approach to land use and transport planning. It emphasises that movement, connectivity and legibility of transport links are critical components in the creation of a successful place and an efficient

transport network (including the highway, public transport, pedestrian and cycle routes, PROWs including bridleway routes) is critical to support economic growth.

4.4.111 The LDP supports the delivery of sustainable transport infrastructure which is a key objective for Welsh Government. The “Transport Hierarchy for Planning” as set out in Future Wales already forms the basis for the LDP Policies on transport. In order to reduce the reliance on car use development must firstly consider providing new and upgraded Active Travel routes. Principally by means of improving connectivity and developments taking opportunities to enhance walking and cycling access by incorporating new routes within development sites, and/or making financial contributions towards the delivery off-site of appropriate measures. The provision and improvement of public transport is a key aim of the Plan enabling sustainable travel choices. The plan seeks to maximise the potential of movement to/from development by public transport, including ensuring developments within the urban area are located at a walkable distance to a public transport access point on a route with a high frequency service.

4.4.112 Developments are required to deliver new transport infrastructure and improvement measures that are required to mitigate the impact of the development, and ensure they are served by appropriate parking

provision and circulation areas. Development that would have an unacceptable impact on the safe and efficient operation of the transport network will not be permitted.

4.4.113 A Strategic Transport Study was undertaken to consider the impact of LDP development proposals and help guide and inform the process of delivering land allocations by means of modelling and quantifying the transport impact of these proposals and identified measures considered important as part of a joined up approach to land use and transport planning. This Assessment was important in providing a thorough assessment of the likely impact of the Plan's strategy for growth and proposing some of the mitigating measures that may be required. The Assessment will need to be updated to reflect the development proposals of the Replacement LDP.

4.4.114 Other specific policies in this chapter of the LDP support the provision of identified strategic bus based service corridors across the city within proposed areas of development; the delivery of new or enhanced transport interchanges; safeguard the canal network and identified areas that offer the opportunity to re-connect gaps in the existing network where parts of the canals have been lost; and deal with development in the port and docks. Policy T 5 sets out design principles for transport measures and infrastructure. In-line with PPW, existing transport

proposals will be reviewed so as to remove any proposals that have previously been safeguarded, but are now abandoned, or any that are unlikely to commence during the plan period.

4.4.115 The policies have largely been effective, however the evidence base will need to be updated with reference to key changes since the LDP was adopted including Future Wales, relevant updates to PPW, the new Wales Transport Strategy (2021), Active Travel Act Guidance (2021), Manual for Streets 2 (Urban and Rural Streets) (May 2019), Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales (March 2021).

4.4.116 The Replacement LDP will also need to take account of the emerging regional transport planning context and any specific proposals that are confirmed as deliverable within the Replacement Plan period from the Swansea Bay and West Wales Metro.

### **RP1 – Safeguarding Health / Natural Resources**

4.4.117 Strategic Policy RP1 seeks to ensure that the County's natural environment is protected from materially harmful development. Specifically, this relates to the effect of development on Air, Light and Noise Pollution, Flood Risk, the quality or quantity of water resources, land contamination, land instability or subsidence, sustainable development of mineral

resources and sustainable waste management. The policy is supported by a number of detailed policies covering specific topic areas (RP 2 – RP 14). Specific policies are discussed further below.

- 4.4.118 Future Wales indicates that PPW contains the planning policy framework for addressing air quality, soundscape and noise. The planning system should maximise its contribution to achieving the well being goals and in particular a healthier Wales.
- 4.4.119 In respect of noise, Policy RP2 sets out the approach to minimising the effects of noise pollution, including restrictions to developments creating noise in Noise Action Planning Priority Areas or designated Quiet Areas. The AMR indicates that development permitted within Quiet Areas has accorded with the Policy Framework which indicates the Policy is performing effectively. PPW however has a particular emphasis on the need to create appropriate soundscapes and preserve soundscape quality rather than just a focus on noise pollution. It is expected that a new TAN 11 on Noise will be issued which will provide further elaboration on air quality, noise and soundscape in more detail providing greater detail as to how they should be addressed in development plans. Therefore, the terminology and scope of RC 2 will be reconsidered as part of the Replacement LDP. Similarly, consideration will be given to including reference to the Tranquil Areas Map produced by

NRW.

- 4.4.120 In respect of air and light pollution Policy RP3 sets out the approach to minimising the effects of air and light pollution from new development. In respect of light pollution, the control of lighting design is important in protecting the dark sky environment of the Gower AONB. The adopted Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG sets out detailed considerations in order to control light pollution within this area. It will be necessary therefore that the Replacement LDP adequately covers this issue in an updated Policy RP 3. It will also be necessary to reflect any changes in Air Quality Management Areas.
- 4.4.121 Policy RP 4 seeks to protect the quality of the water environment and to promote good water resource management. The terminology of the policy will need to be updated to reflect that SuDS is now mandatory for all new developments in Wales of more than one dwelling or where the construction area is 100 square metres. Additionally, in light of the NRW planning advice in December 2020 which required development within SAC catchments to achieve phosphate neutrality or betterment, whilst this does not affect watercourses within Swansea, the HRA process for the Replacement LDP will likely need to consider any potential impact on the proposed scale of development of riverine SACs in neighbouring authorities and on the marine SAC which borders



Swansea and Carmarthen. The terminology of RP 4 may therefore need to be updated as this issue is assessed.

4.4.122 Policy RP 5 is the supporting policy to RP 1 for the avoidance of floodrisk and sets out measures as to how this will be assessed. The AMR indicates that both policies are performing effectively as no applications were permitted where there was an outstanding objection from NRW on flood risk or contrary advice from NRW. However, as referred previously in para 2.2 the new TAN 15 and Floodmap for Planning is due to come into force in 2023 which will provide a significantly different context for planning decisions compared to the existing framework. Given this the policy will need to be reviewed to reflect the new TAN.

4.4.123 Policy RP 6 seeks to ensure that any risks to development arising from contamination or landfill gas generation are identified and accurately assessed and that where appropriate satisfactory measures are taken to overcome the risks identified. No particular issues have been identified with the current policy. PPW sets out that development plans should include policies and proposals for rehabilitation and development of existing derelict sites where development is the preferred response. In addition, any policies for areas of land contamination or instability must be accompanied by the warning they

have been defined on the best available information to the planning authority and are not necessarily exhaustive and that responsibility for determining the extent and effects of such constraints remains that of the developer. The Replacement LDP will consider this guidance should any contaminated sites be promoted.

4.4.124 Policy RP 7 aims to steer development away from areas of unstable land. There are no particular issues raised with the policy currently and therefore it is considered it is performing effectively. PPW (para 6.9.25) sets out key policy that planning decisions will need to take account of in respect of land instability. The terminology of RP 7 will be reviewed as part of the Replacement LDP and will be updated as necessary.

4.4.125 RP 8 – 11 - Waste Management Policies - these provide the local policy framework with regard to the development of new waste management facilities, integration of waste management into new developments, and disposal of agricultural waste.

4.4.126 The latest information available from the Waste Planning Monitoring Report (WPMR) for the South West Wales region is the 2021/22 report which indicates a predicted regional landfill void capacity of 7.5 years. This figure is dependent upon several assumptions, including the individual circumstances of

the landfills currently operating (e.g. potential contracts coming to an end), new landfills or alternative residual treatment plants becoming operational, the reduction in actual quantities of residual waste produced, and increases in the amount of waste recycled, re-used or composted.

4.4.127 The County's only landfill site, Tir John, closed as a landfill site in 2022 and residual waste is being taken out of the County for disposal in Energy from Waste facilities. How this will impact the regional landfill capacity void will need to be carefully monitored. The WPMR considers that at the present time the management of residual waste in the Mid and South West Wales region is being adequately catered for and no new capacity is required. Nevertheless, LDP policy will need to continue to permit the development of appropriate new waste treatment works in case additional capacity is required; and appropriate new landfill sites in exceptional circumstances including the fact that additional capacity is required.

4.4.128 In March 2021, the Welsh Government published "Beyond Recycling – A strategy to make the circular economy in Wales a reality" followed by the "Strategic Assessment for the future need for energy from waste capacity in the three economic regions of Wales". The waste policies will also need to be reviewed to reflect the growing emphasis on minimising waste and the circular economy.

4.4.129 Future Wales identifies that SDPs will be required to provide a coordinated framework for waste treatment and disposal, however, the SDP will not be in place ahead of the Replacement LDP being adopted. The LDP waste policy framework should be reviewed to ensure it reflects the latest WPMR and the up to date situation within the County.

4.4.130 The AMR indicates that sufficient allocated employment land still exists (B1/2 use class) in the LDP to enable the development of new waste management infrastructure, if necessary.

#### **RP 12 – RP 14: Sustainable Development and safeguarding of Mineral Resources**

4.4.131 Policy RP 12 sets out criteria against which all proposals for mineral development will be assessed, including borrow pits, the reworking of mineral tips for their mineral content and the development of land based unconventional oil and gas (i.e. coal-bed methane, shale gas and underground coal gasification). There is a clear Welsh Government policy objective to avoid the continued extraction and consumption of fossil fuels. Therefore, proposals for opencast coal operations, deep-mine development or colliery spoil disposal will not be permitted.

4.4.132 Policy RP 13 identifies mineral safeguarding areas

and prevents development that would sterilise identified natural resources, while RP 14 identifies mineral buffer zones to protect sensitive development from the impacts of mineral operations; and to protect mineral operations from new sensitive development locating too close and potentially impacting on the operator's capacity to carry out permitted mineral operations without causing nuisance.

4.4.133 Future Wales identifies the important role played by the South West region's minerals and aggregates in supporting development across Wales and England. SDPs will be required to provide a coordinated framework for minerals extraction, however, the SDP will not be in place ahead of the Replacement LDP being adopted.

4.4.134 Therefore, forward planning for minerals forms an intrinsic part of the LDP process. In accordance with the recommendations contained within the evidence base of the current LDP, Regional Technical Statement (RTS) 1st Review, no future provision for land-won primary aggregates, including allocations for future workings have been identified within the current LDP. The principal objectives of the RTS are to inform the provision of adequate reserves of aggregates in the LDPs in order to ensure sufficient provision for construction and other industries in the most sustainable manner reasonably achievable.

4.4.135 Since adoption of the LDP, the RTS for the North and South Wales Regional Aggregate Working Party, 2nd Review, was adopted in 2020. This second review provides updated projections and amends the methodology in relation to the forecast consumption of aggregate as well as the historic pattern of supply.

4.4.136 This latest RTS requires Swansea, through its LDP, to meet the apportionment of 0.305 million tonnes (mt) of crushed rock (specifically HSA Sandstone) per year until the end of the Plan period and for 10 years thereafter (7.636 million tonnes over 25 years). This requirement is not reflected by the current LDP, and NPT currently cover Swansea's apportionment requirement. The LDP policies will therefore need to be reviewed in light of the latest RTS and potentially consideration will need to be given to allocating preferred areas on the Replacement LDP Proposals Map.

### **Review of LDP Proposals Map**

4.4.137 The content of the LDP Proposals Map will require changes as part of the Replacement LDP in order to reflect any spatially relevant changes made to the plan such as amended allocations, boundaries and spatial changes to other policies.

4.4.138 In addition, the LDP Constraints Map contains designations that are not directly proposals of the LDP

but are constraints to development created by legislation or other mechanisms outside of the LDP process such as Flood Risk Areas, Conservation Areas, SSSI's, etc. This will also need to be reviewed to ensure it is comprehensive and up to date.

### **Review of LDP Monitoring Indicators**

- 4.4.139 The LDP monitoring framework will need to be reviewed in order to reflect changes made to the Replacement LDP strategy, policies and proposals.
- 4.4.140 The review will also reconsider whether all the indicators are necessary with reference to the Development Plans Manual, which states the monitoring framework should be focussed on those key policies fundamental to delivering the Plan and that it should not be too onerous or too complex. There are also some existing areas of duplication which should be removed.
- 4.4.141 Existing indicators will be reviewed to identify any minor amendments that can make the monitoring more efficient (some suggested changes have been highlighted in AMR reports), or that are necessary to reflect national guidance (eg the new housing delivery monitoring arrangements which have been actioned in the AMRs), or to ensure all the indicators remain specific, measurable and realistic (for example amending any indicators where the dataset has been

discontinued).

### **Review of SEA/SA**

- 4.4.142 A requirement of the LDP process is that Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) informs preparation of the Plan in an iterative manner. The process will also integrate other relevant assessments, such as the Welsh Language Impact Assessment, the Equalities Assessment and Health Impact Assessment. The process will be entitled the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA).
- 4.4.143 The ISA process will be integral to the development of the Replacement LDP and will follow the main stages as set out in the Development Plans Manual. This will ensure the vision, objectives, policies and proposals promote sustainable development and take account of any significant effects on the environment. The ISA will be an iterative process throughout preparation of the Replacement LDP and its subsequent annual monitoring enabling the Council to assess the extent to which the Plan is contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and to identify any concerns.
- 4.4.144 To inform preparation of the Replacement LDP it will

be necessary to revisit and update environmental, social and economic baseline information, along with the review of relevant plans policies and programmes, contained within the Scoping Report previously prepared for the LDP. The Scoping Report will identify key issues that should be addressed via the Replacement LDP and should inform the LDP objectives.

- 4.4.145 The SA Monitoring Framework including the SA Objectives will also need to be reviewed to ensure it remains up to date, including considering whether the methodologies need revising due to changes in legislation.

### **Review of HRA**

- 4.4.146 The LDP was informed by Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), the purpose of which was to assess the impacts of the LDP, in combination with the effects of other plans and projects, against the conservation objectives of internationally important European sites of nature conservation importance such as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (designated for their ecological status) and to ascertain following screening what needs Appropriate Assessment (AA).
- 4.4.147 Further to the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, SACs and

SPAs in the UK no longer form part of the European Union's Natura 2000 ecological network. A National Site Network has been created in the UK, which includes SACs and SPAs. Ramsar sites (designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance) do not form part of the National Site Network and are not subject to the Habitats Regulations, however they are treated within the planning system in the same way as SACs and SPAs.

- 4.4.148 The new Regulations came into force on the 1st January 2021. The Replacement LDP will again need to be subject to HRA, and this will require the HRA screening process and methodology to be reviewed and revisited and applied to emerging LDP proposals in an iterative process to ensure that the relevant legislation and regulations are complied with and any issues are fully addressed.

## Chapter 4 Conclusions on Review of adopted LDP

- While this review has identified that much of the LDP is operating well, the evidence base of the Plan will need to be updated due to the timescales since the Plan was adopted. This will include a review of the scale of growth required over the Replacement LDP period. This could require a change to the scale of growth requirement. Furthermore, while the existing spatial strategy is considered to be sound, the way in which it is delivered will need to be reviewed against changes since the Plan's adoption including for example the relevant spatial aspects set out in Future Wales; the need to replace delivered allocations and to account for delays in some allocations coming forward more slowly than envisaged through the addition of any new allocations required to deliver the updated housing requirement; and a detailed review of undelivered existing allocations. In-line with PPW (ed11) there must be sufficient sites suitable for the full range of housing types to address the identified needs of communities, which will require an update to the evidence of housing needs. Furthermore, there will need to be a range of sustainable and deliverable sites to allow all sectors and types of house-builder, including nationals, regionals, registered social landlords (RSLs), Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and the custom and self-build sector, the opportunity to contribute to delivering of the proposed housing requirement.
- Consequently there are likely to be some changes to the growth strategy and to aspects of how the spatial strategy is delivered. This would not be suited to the SFR procedure and a Full Review will be required to enable the LPA to respond to these strategic issues and to fully update the evidence base on which the Plan is based.
- This Chapter has highlighted that specific elements of the Plan will need to be updated such as with regard to the need for, and provision of, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers, affordable housing need, high level financial viability levels of delivering affordable housing and physical infrastructure requirements, the retail need evidence base, transport infrastructure impacts of new allocations, amendments to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk, and review of the provision of areas for mineral extraction.
- Changes in context such as emerging deliverable proposals from the SW Wales Metro will need to be understood in order to be reflected in the Replacement LDP.
- The review has also identified various opportunities to update policies which are otherwise working effectively in order to refine the Plan.
- This report does not detail every opportunity and the LPA will continue to review and refine through the Replacement LDP process building on experience of using the policies since plan adoption.

## Chapter 5. Opportunities for Collaborative Working

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 WG Guidance<sup>11</sup> states that, when undertaking LDP reviews, all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base should be considered. This is in the interests of maximising the opportunities and efficiencies of evidence gathering, consultation and co-operation in tandem, and/or through joint working arrangements. Such an arrangement can be particularly relevant for LDPs on similar preparation timescales, and where authorities have strong geographical and/or functional linkages. Collaboration is a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and an integral part of the LDP soundness tests (i.e. the test of compatibility of the LDP with the plans of neighbouring authorities).

5.1.2 This Chapter considers the opportunities that exist for joint working with other LPAs, both in terms of preparing joint Plans and in terms of gathering evidence.

### 5.2 SDP and Joint LDP's

5.2.1 Swansea shares its administrative boundary with three other Authorities: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Carmarthenshire County Council, and Brecon Beacons National Park Authority. In terms of timescales, there is little opportunity to prepare a Joint LDP with any of these adjoining authorities, as they are at more advanced stages in their Replacement LDP preparation process.

5.2.2 Despite the incompatible timescales, collaboration with all neighbouring authorities will nevertheless be a central part of the work to prepare the Replacement LDP, which will need to fit as far as possible with the existing and/or emerging strategies and proposals of these adjoining areas.

5.2.3 As highlighted in Chapter 2 above, Future Wales requires the preparation of a SDP in South West Wales but it will not be in place ahead of the likely adoption date of the Swansea Replacement LDP. Notwithstanding this, over the course of preparing the Replacement LDP, there will be a need for the LPA to closely monitor the implications of any emerging SDP work as and when new regional policy direction emerges.

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<sup>11</sup> Development Plans Manual

### 5.3 Joint Working on Evidence Base

- 5.3.1 The most effective focus and use of resources at this stage will be to build on existing joint working arrangements and take all opportunities where it is relevant to consider issues in a cross-boundary manner on the key areas of evidence underpinning LDPs. This will ensure a compatible and consistent evidence base across LDPs and can inform future work towards the SDP.
- 5.3.2 To date, discussions and progress have centred on working with NPT Council on projects to assess employment and housing growth projections, and to produce an updated Local Housing Market Assessment. These will form key evidence for the levels of growth in each LDP and by undertaking jointly can properly take account of cross authority border issues with regard to the housing and employment markets and the Swansea Bay context. The Authorities comprising the South West Region are also working together on provide a better understanding of the extent of the National Growth Area identified in Future Wales.
- 5.3.3 In addition, the authorities in both the West Wales and Mid Wales regions have worked together on a 'Regional Viability Study' (RVS). The RVS, led by Andrew Burrows of 'Burrows-Hutchinson' has led to the completion and implementation of a Development

Viability Model (DVM) for use by all the Authorities. The DVM is a spreadsheet based appraisal tool capable of assessing the overall levels of viability in sub areas of an Authority, as well as for testing the suitability and deliverability of specific sites for inclusion in a Development Plan.

- 5.3.4 There are opportunities for other collaborative work to be undertaken to inform Replacement LDP preparation. This could include, for example, joint work on minerals evidence; retail planning; landscape assessments; renewable energy assessments, and the consideration of the Fabian Way Innovation Corridor area that extends across both Swansea and NPT Authority boundaries.
- 5.3.5 Ongoing dialogue with other LPAs will help maximise efficiencies and consistency with regard to gathering/sharing evidence and agreeing methodologies where possible.



### **Chapter 5 Conclusions on Opportunities for Collaborative Working**

- The LPA has explored the options for working jointly with other LPAs on the Development Plan but has concluded that the most appropriate option at this time is for the Council to prepare a Replacement LDP on an individual LPA basis.
- However, wherever possible, the LPA will continue to work collaboratively with other neighbouring LPAs on producing a consistent and coherent evidence base (notable elements of joint work have commenced on key evidence studies needed to inform the growth requirements) and work with other LPAs in the future to prepare a SDP for the South West region.

## Chapter 6. Conclusions and Next Steps

### 6.1 Conclusions

6.1.1 Having regard to the findings set out in the latest AMR in respect of certain monitoring indicators, and the impending need for the statutory LDP review process to be underway on the Swansea LDP by February 2023 in any event, the recommendation of AMR 3 was that a LDP Review Report should be prepared in-line with the process prescribed by Welsh Government guidance and legislation.

6.1.2 The review undertaken for this Report has shown that, whilst much of the Swansea LDP is operating well, there is a clear need to update the evidence base of the Plan. This is due to the timescale that has elapsed since LDP adoption, but more importantly the significant material changes in the strategic planning and societal contexts that have arisen during this period. This includes a need to review the scale of population growth going forward in the light of emerging data, which could in turn require a change to the scale of the housing and employment growth strategy for Swansea. Furthermore, while the existing spatial strategy is considered to be sound, the way in which it is delivered will need to be reviewed against significant material changes since the Plan's adoption. This includes the relevant policies and parameters set

out in Future Wales - the National Development Plan published post LDP adoption.

6.1.3 The review has also highlighted there is a need to consider in detail whether the findings of the latest AMR, in respect of delays incurred on delivering certain LDP allocated sites, necessitate the identification of any new allocations to deliver any updated housing requirement. This would require a comprehensive review of undelivered existing allocations and the individual merits and deliverability of other allocations. Such a process reflects the requirements of PPW (ed11), which states there must be sufficient sites suitable for the full range of housing types to address the identified needs of communities. This necessitates an update to the evidence of housing needs. An important part of ensuring a sufficient range of sustainable and deliverable sites are available, is providing an opportunity for all sectors and types of house-builder to contribute to delivering the housing requirement, including nationals, regionals, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), registered social landlords (RSLs), and the custom and self-build sector.

6.1.4 It is clear that the use of the SFR procedure focused on only limited parameters and issues would not be appropriate or justified. This is particularly evident given the need to review the levels of growth going forward and the spatial strategy that should be linked to that growth. Furthermore, the SFR procedure excludes

the requirement to undertake pre-deposit public consultation, which would be an important part of reviewing matters relating to the scale and distribution of growth.

**6.1.5 In light of the above, this Review Report concludes that it is necessary for a Full Review procedure be undertaken for the Swansea LDP, to enable the LPA to respond to the strategic issues and key policy matters raised in this Report, and to fully update the evidence base on which the LDP is based.**

6.1.6 This would mean that a Replacement LDP would be prepared for the period 2023 to (likely) 2036 following the same full procedures as used in preparing the adopted LDP. Preparation of a Replacement LDP will ensure that effective local decision making in planning can continue after the adopted LDP's "end-date" of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, in-line the plan-led approach in Wales required by Welsh Government.

6.1.7 This Report has highlighted various elements of the LDP evidence base that need to be updated. It has highlighted that any changes to this evidence may need to be reflected in amendments to current LDP policies, including with regard to: the need for, and provision of, pitches for Gypsies and Travellers; affordable housing need; high level financial viability of delivering affordable housing and physical infrastructure requirements in the different parts of the

County; retail need and provision; transport infrastructure impacts of allocations; the potential need for provision of areas for mineral extraction; and to reflect new national guidance expected on flood risk. This list is not intended to be exhaustive.

6.1.8 There are important and significant changes in national, regional and local policy and circumstances that need to be fully reviewed and reflected where necessary in Plan revision. As well as the implications of Future Wales, this includes the new regional planning agendas, the emerging proposals of the SW Wales Metro, and the latest Local Wellbeing Plan context.

6.1.9 This Report has also identified how opportunities should be taken to update policies that, although largely working effectively based on the AMR, could benefit from wording changes in order to refine the Plan. The report has highlighted such instances but does not detail every opportunity. The LPA will need to continue to review and refine through the Replacement LDP process, building on evidence gained from the experience of using the policies in planning decision making since Plan adoption.

**6.1.10 It should be noted that this Review Report is not intended to detail all of the changes that will be made to the LDP, as these will only be determined through the formal preparation process of the Replacement LDP.**

6.1.11 WG Guidance<sup>12</sup> states that, for LDP reviews, LPAs should consider and demonstrate they have exhausted all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base. Collaboration is a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and an integral part of the LDP soundness tests.

6.1.12 **The LPA has therefore explored the relevant options for working jointly with other LPAs on the Development Plan. It has concluded however that the most appropriate option at this time is for the Council to undertake a full review of the existing LDP on an individual LPA basis.** Wherever possible, the LPA will continue to work collaboratively with other neighbouring LPAs on producing a consistent and coherent evidence base (notable elements of joint work have commenced on key evidence studies needed to inform the growth requirements) and work with other LPAs in the future to prepare a SDP.

## 6.2 Next Steps

6.2.1 Stakeholders will make a valuable contribution in helping to identify and clarify what issues need to be considered, how effective the existing LDP has been in terms of delivery, and the extent of changes likely to be required to the Plan. On this basis, it is proposed to

undertake stakeholder and public consultation and engagement on the draft Review Report, including specific and general consultation bodies as suggested in the Welsh Government's Development Plans Manual.

6.2.2 The LPA will review the consultation responses received and consider the potential implications for both the content of the Plan and the review process. Any appropriate amendments will be made in the final Review Report which will be reported to Council Members prior to submission to Welsh Government, thereby confirming the form and type of Plan review that will be undertaken. The Review Report will be a key part of the evidence base underpinning the form and content of the revised plan, and ultimately will be one of a number of documents submitted to the appointed Planning Inspector as part of the Examination process.

6.2.3 The LPA will also produce a draft Delivery Agreement (DA) for the Replacement Swansea LDP, and seek approval from Members to consult with the public and stakeholders on the document. The DA will set out the draft timetable for the preparation of the Replacement LDP, together with the Community Engagement Scheme (CIS) detailing when, and how the Council will consult on its preparation and with whom.

<sup>12</sup> Development Plans Manual

## Appendix 1: Policy Review

Theme	Code	Policy	Notes
Placemaking and Sustainable Development	PS 1	Sustainable Places	<u>Policy is functioning effectively</u> - AMR has concluded that green wedges and countryside is being protected from inappropriate development and development is being directed towards the most sustainable places within the defined settlement boundaries. Review of Urban boundary as part of the LDP Review will need to consider extant consents both for new development and approved extensions to existing residential curtilage.
	PS 2	Placemaking and Place Management	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor amendments required</u> - Policy to be updated to reflect national sustainable placemaking outcomes and Future Wales Strategic Placemaking principles. Consideration will be given to widening the scope of the policy to provide guidance on overheating, the need for safe and legible entrances to be reflected within criterion vii and new criterion requiring sufficient amenity and private space for all forms of residential developments
	PS 3	Sustainable Housing Strategy	<u>Revision required</u> - The review process provides an opportunity to revisit the most appropriate levels of future housing growth for the Replacement LDP Plan and to determine whether the current strategy remains the most appropriate way of meeting identified housing requirements. Consideration of meeting demand for Care Homes will be required.

	<b>PS 4</b>	Sustainable Employment Strategy	<u>Revision required</u> - The review process provides an opportunity to revisit the most appropriate future levels of employment growth for the Replacement LDP Plan and to determine whether the current strategy remains the most appropriate way of meeting the identified employment requirements.
<b>Strategic Development and Masterplanning</b>	<b>SD 1</b>	Strategic Development Areas	<u>Revision required</u> - The review process provides an opportunity to revisit the most appropriate future levels of growth for the Replacement LDP Plan and to ensure the current strategy remains the most appropriate way of meeting requirements.
	<b>SD 2</b>	Masterplanning Principles	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor amendments required</u> - The review will need to reconsider the policy threshold for triggering masterplanning requirements which may include consideration of both numbers and size of site.
	<b>SD A</b>	South of Glanffrwd Road, Pontarddulais	Site is at pre planning stage and will be reassessed in-line with national guidance with respect to updated deliverability and viability evidence
	<b>SD B</b>	North of Garden Village	Whole site has planning consent and will become a commitment
	<b>SD C</b>	South of A4240, Penllergaer	Whole site has planning consent and will become a commitment
	<b>SD D</b>	West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderry	Whole site has planning consent and will become a commitment
	<b>SD E</b>	North of Clasemont Road, Morryston	Site is at pre planning stage and will be reassessed in-line with national guidance with respect to updated deliverability and viability evidence

	<b>SD F</b>	Cefn Coed Hospital, Cockett	Site is at pre planning stage and will be reassessed in-line with national guidance with respect to updated deliverability and viability evidence. Potential to become a health-led strategic site
	<b>SD G</b>	Northwest of M4 J46, Llangyfelach	Planning application has been submitted for determination and progress will need to be monitored. Potential to review as part of wider mixed use scheme with Business Park.
	<b>SD H</b>	North of Waunarlwydd/Fforestfach	Site is at pre planning stage and will be reassessed in-line with national guidance with respect to updated deliverability and viability evidence. The western end of the site will be reviewed to reflect the Gowerton Metro hub.
	<b>SD I</b>	Swansea Vale	Site is at pre planning stage and will be reassessed in-line with national guidance with respect to updated deliverability and viability evidence.
	<b>SD J</b>	Swansea Central Area	Regeneration of the Central Area remains a Corporate priority. SD J comprises multiple sites and regeneration opportunities and will need to be reviewed to ensure it remains up to date and reflects the latest deliverability and viability evidence and regeneration priorities for the Central Area.
	<b>SD K</b>	Fabian Way Corridor	SD K comprises multiple sites and regeneration opportunities and will need to be reviewed to ensure it remains up to date and reflects the latest deliverability and viability evidence.
	<b>SD L</b>	Tawe Riverside and Hafod Morfa Copperworks	SD L comprises multiple sites and regeneration opportunities and will need to be reviewed to ensure it remains up to date and reflects the latest deliverability and viability evidence.

<b>Infrastructure Requirements and Obligations</b>	<b>IO 1</b>	Supporting Infrastructure and Planning Obligations	<u>Policy is functioning effectively but updates are required</u> - Necessary infrastructure is being secured to mitigate the impact of and support delivery of new development. However there are areas of clarification required on particular topics with the current SPG being out of date. The review offers the opportunity to reflect on the elements that need to be updated through replacement LDP policies and also to prepare an updated S106 SPG in tandem. An updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan to support the LDP will be developed as part of the review.
	<b>IO 2</b>	Employment and Training Opportunities	<u>Policy is functioning effectively but updates are required</u> -The policy wording will be reviewed to reflect the latest updates to the Council Community Benefit Policy. Further guidance is necessary in securing this as part of development which will be contained within the replacement S106 SPG which will be prepared as part of the SPG.
<b>Housing</b>	<b>H 1</b>	Non-Strategic Housing Sites	A number of sites have been delivered, and further sites will become commitments with planning consent. Sites that have not been progressed will be reassessed in-line with national guidance.
	<b>H 2</b>	Affordable Housing Strategy	<u>Revision Required</u> - Provision for required affordable housing provision will be reviewed as part of the Replacement plan process informed by an updated Local Housing Market Assessment.



	<b>H 3</b>	On-site Affordable Housing	<u>Revision Required</u> - Policy considered to be working effectively to secure affordable housing in line with the target percentages. However, target percentages and thresholds for triggering the policy will be reviewed by updated Viability work needed to inform the Replacement LDP and in light of changes to ward boundaries. Further guidance to support the interpretation of the policy should be included as part of updated Planning Obligation SPG.
	<b>H 4</b>	Off-site Affordable Housing	<u>Policy is functioning effectively but minor updates are required</u> - The policy is working in only facilitating affordable housing off site in exceptional circumstances. However it is considered further guidance to support the interpretation of the policy should be included as part of updated Planning Obligation SPG.
	<b>H 5</b>	Local Needs Housing Exception Sites	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - A number of sites have been delivered, and further sites will become commitments with planning consent. Sites that have not been progressed will be reassessed in-line with national planning guidance. Further allocations will be considered in light of the emerging Local Housing Market Assessment. Further clarification on the interpretation of the policy will be provided in the updated Planning Obligations SPG.

	<b>H 6</b>	100% Affordable Housing Exception Sites	<u>Policy is functioning effectively but minor updates are required</u> -Clarification required within the amended policy that where affordable housing is provided on a 100% Affordable Housing Exception site (as defined in LDP Policy H 6), the Council will not typically allow the affordable homes to be intermediate tenures that would permit occupiers to staircase to full ownership of the home. The only exception to this will be instances where the applicant has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that secure arrangements will be in place to guarantee the relevant home(s) will, upon re-sales, always be sold or let as affordable housing. National planning policy is clear that affordable housing exception sites are not appropriate for market housing.
	<b>H 7</b>	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	<u>Revision required</u> - A review will need to be undertaken to inform the Replacement LDP regarding the latest need position for additional pitches in Swansea which will be identified in the most up to date GTAA and the provision in place to accommodate that need.
	<b>H 8</b>	Ancillary Residential Accommodation	<u>Policy performing effectively but updates may be required</u> - These policies are not routinely monitored through the AMR but will be reviewed in the preparation of the Replacement LDP with Development Management colleagues to ensure they are operating successfully and remain appropriate and up to date.

	<b>H 9</b>	Houses in Multiple Occupation	<p><u>Policy functioning effectively but minor amendments required</u></p> <p>- The LDP AMR has monitored the concentration of HMOs within the HMO Management Area which is defined on the Proposals Map. Each AMR has concluded that the concentration of HMOs in this designated area has not varied significantly from the baseline (as reported in AMR 3). The policy is generally considered to be operating as intended. However, it will be necessary to review this, along with the supporting SPG, for example with regard to assessing any changes in HMO concentrations in areas outside of the Management Area, and for any useful minor alterations or clarification to the policy text that would be appropriate and potential expansion of the policy to cover new forms of housing such as co-living.</p>
	<b>H 10</b>	Specialist Housing	<p><u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates may be required</u> - These policies are not routinely monitored through the AMR but will be reviewed in the preparation of the Replacement LDP with Development Management colleagues to ensure they are operating successfully and remain appropriate and up to date</p>
	<b>H 11</b>	Purpose Built Student Accommodation	<p><u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - The policy is generally considered to be operating as intended with the majority of new PBSA being guided to Central Area sites. Nonetheless, the policy will be reviewed to ensure the policy remains appropriate and up to date.</p>

<b>Historic and Cultural Environment</b>	<b>HC 1</b>	Historic and Cultural Environment	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - No specific issues were identified in the AMR in respect of the operation of the LDP policies for the Built Environment and Historic Heritage. Issues that may need to be considered as part of the review include changing the terminology used to bring it in line with the latest policy (PPW and TAN24) and guidance (e.g. Historic Environment rather than Historic Heritage and Historic Assets of Special Local Interest rather than Buildings of Local Importance).
	<b>HC 2</b>	Preservation or Enhancement of Buildings and Features	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - Clarification required that development should protect conserve and enhance the special interest of parks and gardens or its setting in line with national policy.
	<b>HC 3</b>	Development in the Welsh Language Sensitive Area	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - Whilst policy is working effectively in terms of developers considering the impact of proposals on the Welsh language the policy could usefully clarify the difference between a Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Welsh Language Action Plan. As part of the review latest census data will be analysed to determine whether there will be a need to amend the extent of the designated Welsh Language Sensitive Area (WLSA), and a review of the boundary to take account of changes to Ward boundaries; and consideration of whether the policy thresholds require revision

<b>Social Infrastructure</b>	<b>SI 1</b>	Health and Well-being	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> - The review will need to consider whether it should remain as a stand alone overarching policy or whether it should be amalgamated under a new overarching theme of sustainable placemaking and interwoven throughout policies, incorporating the concept of 'Health in All Policies' (HiAP). The LDP goes some way to achieve this, with policies relating to air, noise and light pollution, land contamination, transport, etc all relating to public health impacts. Consideration will be given whether the potential implications on physical and mental health implications due to development should be given greater emphasis in policies within the Replacement LDP.
	<b>SI 2</b>	Providing and Safeguarding Community Facilities and Locally Important Uses	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - Policy is working effectively in protecting the loss of community facilities of local value. Additional criteria could be included dealing with proposals that do not lead to the loss of a facility but may affect its operation. The wording will be reviewed as part of the RLDP to identify any opportunities for improved clarification on specific matters.
	<b>SI 3</b>	Education Facilities	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates may be required</u> - The policy is working effectively to secure education infrastructure to mitigate the impact of and to support new development. However a review of the methodology for calculating education contributions from new development is required to update the outdated SPG. Therefore Policy SI 3 will be reviewed alongside the review of the planning obligations SPG in respect of securing education provision and will be updated accordingly as part of the process.

	<b>SI 4</b>	Morrison Hospital	<u>Review of Policy required</u> - Engagement with the Local Health Board will be necessary to inform the Replacement LDP as to future plans for the expansion of Morrison Hospital in order that the policy can adequately facilitate development as appropriate.
	<b>SI 5</b>	Protection of Open Space	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - The policy is performing effectively in terms of ensuring development on open space is acceptable or appropriately mitigated. The wording of the supporting justification will need to be reviewed in so far as it reflects current FIT guidance.
	<b>SI 6</b>	Provision of New Open Space	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - The policy is performing effectively in terms of securing appropriate open space provision in new development. However the open space guidance is being reviewed as part of the amendments to the Planning Obligations SPG so the policy will be updated as part of this process. It will need updating to refer to current FIT standards on quantity guidelines and walking guidelines and which also supersedes reference to Accessible Natural Green Space Toolkit as the FIT guidance includes provision for informal outdoor space and within that is natural/semi-natural greenspace which has the same target set out in the ANGS toolkit. Policy criteria to consider how new open space delivers wider GI multifunctional benefits.
	<b>SI 7</b>	Cemeteries	<u>Review required</u> - Future need for cemetery provision will be assessed as part of the LDP review process in consultation with bereavement services.

	<b>SI 8</b>	Community Safety	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - The existing supporting SPG 'Planning for Community Safety' will need updating as part of the LDP Review.
<b>Regeneration and Commercial Development</b>	<b>RC 1</b>	Swansea Central Area Regeneration	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> - The Swansea Central Area regeneration remains a corporate priority but the policy will be reviewed to ensure it reflects up to date priorities as they emerge through the review process. The boundary of the central area will also need reviewing to ensure all relevant regeneration opportunities such as the area to the north of the train station and the Palace Theatre are incorporated.
	<b>RC 2</b>	Retail and Leisure Development	<u>Policy functioning effectively with minor updates required</u> - The policy reflects the town centre first principle advocated by PPW and Future Wales and is performing effectively in terms of promoting the vitality and viability of defined centres. However as part of the LDP Review the retail centre boundaries will need to be reviewed to ensure they remain up to date. Further clarifications to policy text will be considered.
	<b>RC 3</b>	Swansea Central Area Retail Centre	<u>Policy functioning effectively but review required</u> - The policy will need to be updated to reflect the ongoing regeneration priorities for the Central Area Retail including amendments to the policy amplification in terms of developments on the Swansea Central Scheme.
	<b>RC 4</b>	Swansea Central Area - Complementary Areas	<u>Policy functioning effectively but review required</u> - The policy will need to be updated to reflect the ongoing regeneration priorities for the Central Area Retail including amendments to the policy amplification in terms of developments on the Swansea Central Scheme.

	<b>RC 5</b>	District Centres	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates may be required</u> - Policy criteria will need to be reviewed considering approaches to revitalising town centres in Welsh Government guidance such as Building Better Places: Placemaking and the COVID19 recovery. The existing District Centre Retail boundaries will be reviewed to ensure they remain up to date
	<b>RC 6</b>	Local Centres	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates may be required</u> - Policy criteria will need to be reviewed considering approaches to revitalising town centres in Welsh Government guidance such as Building Better Places: Placemaking and the COVID19 recovery. The existing Local Centre Retail boundaries will be reviewed to ensure they remain up to date
	<b>RC 7</b>	Out of Centre Retail Parks	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> - However the existing retail park boundaries will be reviewed to ensure they remain up to date.
	<b>RC 8</b>	Commercial Development within Strategic Development Areas	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> - Policy is facilitating appropriate commercial development with SDA's. Will be reviewed based upon the options for accommodating the level of development going forward.
	<b>RC 9</b>	Ground Floor Non-Retail Uses within Centres	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates may be required</u> - Policy criteria will need to be reviewed considering approaches to revitalising town centres in Welsh Government guidance such as Building Better Places: Placemaking and the COVID19 recovery.
	<b>RC 10</b>	Employment and Enterprise Development	<u>Policy functioning effectively but amendments required</u> - However further guidance on rural business/enterprise could improve the policy.



	<b>RC 11</b>	Alternative Uses at Employment Locations	<u>Policy considered to be operating successfully but updates required</u> - Policy is successful in controlling non B1/B2/B8 uses on employment areas. However it is considered beneficial that the policy is reviewed to provide further guidance on what constitutes established industrial and commercial land/premises in relation to RC 11, since existing employment sites are not identified spatially on the proposals map
	<b>RC 12</b>	Office Development	<u>Policy considered to be operating successfully</u> - Policy is successful in directing large scale offices to the city centre. Policy wording will be reviewed and any improvements/clarification to policy wording will be implemented.
	<b>RC 13</b>	Swansea Enterprise Park	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> - Consideration necessary as to whether to define the spatial area of the Enterprise Park on the Proposals Map to provide clearer guidance as to the extent of area the policy applies to.
<b>Ecosystem and Resilience</b>	<b>ER 1</b>	Climate Change	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - Sets the policy framework to ensure that all development is resilient to and mitigates against the impacts of climate change which reflects Council key corporate priority. Policy may require greater emphasis on ecosystems.

	<b>ER 2</b>	Strategic Green Infrastructure Network	<u>Policy functioning effectively but review required</u> - Policy successful in delivering new GI as part of development. However it will be important to ensure the GI policy reflects the cross cutting nature and need for multifunctionality for example in respect of biodiversity and geodiversity, open space, flood risk alleviation, drainage, active travel, landscape, health and wellbeing, and placemaking. Consideration should be given to an overarching Strategic GI policy.
	<b>ER 3</b>	Green Wedges	<u>Policy functioning effectively but review required</u> - Policy is ensuring the openness and character of Green Wedges are being retained. Green Wedges will need to be reviewed as part of the RLDP to ensure they remain appropriate and only designated where there is demonstrable need to protect the urban form and where alternative policy mechanisms such as settlement boundaries would not be sufficiently robust.
	<b>ER 4</b>	Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy updated to include potential need for LIA's/LVIA's, lighting strategies, Colour Impact Assessments, and the potential of designated landscapes to deliver more for biodiversity. Importance of Dark Skies Community designation to be highlighted. Furthermore the policy should be linked to the revised Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG and ensure wording is accurate and consistent throughout LDP policies in relation to safeguarding AONB.
	<b>ER 5</b>	Landscape Protection	<u>Policy functioning effectively but will need to be reviewed</u> - The extent of SLA designations will be re-assessed for the Replacement LDP to ensure they remain appropriate and the area covered requires additional protection. Further clarification on LIA could be made more specific in the policy justification.

	<b>ER 6</b>	Designated Sites of Ecological Importance	<u>Policy functioning effectively but will be reviewed</u> - Policies ER 6, 8 and 9 need to be reviewed in order to reflect changes in terminology introduced in 2019 by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (known as the 2019 Regulations) as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the Natura 2000 site network
	<b>ER 7</b>	Undeveloped Coast	<u>Policy ER 7 functioning effectively but updates required</u> - needs to be revised to include reference to the Carmarthen Bay, Gower and Swansea Bay Local Seascape Character Assessment, 2017 and the Placemaking Guidance for the Gower AONB SPG. Reference to seascape impact assessments accompanying planning applications when considered necessary needs to be included within policy ER 7.
	<b>ER 8</b>	Habitats and Species	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - Policies ER 6, 8 and 9 need to be reviewed in order to reflect changes in terminology introduced in 2019 by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (known as the 2019 Regulations) as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the Natura 2000 site network.

	<b>ER 9</b>	Ecological Networks and Features of Importance for Biodiversity	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> - Policies ER 6, 8 and 9 need to be reviewed in order to reflect changes in terminology introduced in 2019 by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (known as the 2019 Regulations) as a result of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union and the Natura 2000 site network.
	<b>ER 10</b>	Geological and Geomorphological Sites of Value	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - Policy ER 10 should be reviewed in order to ensure all the designated RIGS are identified and the link to the inclusion of geodiversity within GI Assessments, where appropriate, is strengthened.
	<b>ER 11</b>	Trees, Hedgerows and Development	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy will need to be reviewed in order that it fully reflects the new Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands SPG
<b>Countryside and Village Development</b>	<b>CV 1</b>	Key Villages	<u>Policy functioning effectively but review required</u> – All key villages will be reviewed as part of the LDP including boundaries as part of settlement review. Accordingly policy criteria will be reviewed as part of this process.
	<b>CV 2</b>	Development in the Countryside	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - Does not refer to new 'business', only new rural enterprise. Need to amend settlement boundaries to take account of new planning permissions - extending gardens/curtilages/buildings beyond existing settlement boundaries.
	<b>CV 3</b>	Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> - Size, footprint, materials, climate/carbon accounting?
	<b>CV 4</b>	Conversion of Rural Buildings	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy will need to provide further clarification on the scope of a

			traditional rural building. Further clarification on the difference between this and TR5 within the policy.
	<b>CV 5</b>	Farm Diversification	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Links to Tourism and CV2 policies need to be made clear. Some updates required to improve clarification of policy wording.
<b>Tourism and Recreation</b>	<b>TR 1</b>	Tourism, Recreation and Leisure Development	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy needs to be updated to reflect the greater range and type of buildings and holiday accommodation being developed as tourism accommodation. Further clarification on the scope of contents of a TNDIA that a developer is required to submit is required.
	<b>TR 2</b>	Developed Coast and Waterfront	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present.
	<b>TR 3</b>	Sustainable Tourism and Recreation Development in the Countryside	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy needs further clarification that the scope of the policy is to consider activity based enterprises rather than accommodation proposals which are covered by other policies of the plan.
	<b>TR 4</b>	Clyne Valley Country Park and Penllergaer Valley Woods	<u>Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present.</u> Policy amplification to be updated in light of emerging Clyne Valley Country Park Management Plan.
	<b>TR 5</b>	Holiday Accommodation	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Potential consideration of policy to consider proposals providing holiday accommodation within settlement limits to ensure they are effectively controlled and of sufficient quality. Any links to Policies CV 2 and CV 5 to be clarified.

	<b>TR 6</b>	New Static Caravan, Touring Caravan and/or Camping Sites Within the AONB	<u>Policy functioning effectively but some updates required</u> - Re-examine policy in light of 'newer' forms of accommodation that meet the legal definition of a caravan and/or are considered to be operational development and address the issue of levels of permanence in the landscape.
	<b>TR 7</b>	New Static Caravan, Touring Caravan and/or Camping Sites Outside the AONB	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present.
	<b>TR 8</b>	Existing Static Caravan, Touring Caravan and/or Camping Sites	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present.
	<b>TR 9</b>	Extensions to, and Overflow Areas of, Touring Caravan and/or Camping Sites	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present.
	<b>TR 10</b>	Short-term 'Festival' Camping Events	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>TR 11</b>	Caravan Rallies	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>TR 12</b>	Storage of Caravans	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>TR 13</b>	Residential Use of Holiday Accommodation	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Widening scope of policy to include consideration of garden rooms/annexes given that such accommodation would not be suitable for permanent residential occupation.
<b>Transport, Movement and Connectivity</b>	<b>T 1</b>	Transport Measures and Infrastructure	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – A new strategic transport study will need to be undertaken to inform the RLDP. Policy will be reviewed as part of the LDP to reflect the outcome of this study. Policy will need to reflect current Placemaking objectives such as provision of GI, need for provision of ELUV's in development and S W Wales Metro proposals.

	<b>T 2</b>	Active Travel	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>T 3</b>	Strategic Bus Based Rapid Transit	Policy will need to be updated to reflect emerging Metro proposals
	<b>T 4</b>	Transport Interchanges	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>T 5</b>	Design Principles for Transport Measures and Infrastructure	Policy functioning effectively – Minor updates to reflect need for incorporation of ELUV and Green Infrastructure
	<b>T 6</b>	Parking	<u>Review required</u> – Policy to be reviewed in light of Future Wales policy on zero parking provision in city and town centre locations
	<b>T 7</b>	Public Rights of Way and Recreational Routes	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>T 8</b>	Canal Network	<u>Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present</u> – Policy to be reviewed as part of emerging strategic regeneration priorities
	<b>T 9</b>	Port and Docks	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present

<b>Energy and Utilities</b>	<b>EU 1</b>	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals	<u>Policy is functioning effectively, but review required</u> – The policy framework of EU1 and EU2 will need to be revisited in the light of changes to national policy and Future Wales. Future Wales will set out the WG policies for renewable energy schemes of 10MW and more under the Development of National Significance procedure. Large scale wind developments will be directed to the Pre Assessed Areas for Wind in Future Wales. A Renewable Energy Assessment will be required to support the RLDP to establish policies for the most appropriate locations for development of energy developments below 10MW. In addition the wording of the policies will be reviewed to reflect the energy hierarchy and reflection of the need that solar proposals affecting BMV land should be protected from development because of its special importance.
	<b>EU 2</b>	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy in New Development	See EU1 comments above
	<b>EU 3</b>	District Heating and Cooling	<u>Review required</u> – Given the requirement for heat networks to be considered as part of major development within Future Wales but also the identification of Swansea as one of many District Heat Network priority areas the scope of the policy will be reviewed.
	<b>EU 4</b>	Public Utilities and New Development	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
	<b>EU 5</b>	Telecommunications and Digital Technology Infrastructure	Policy functioning effectively and no changes considered necessary at present
<b>Resources and Public Health Protection</b>	<b>RP 1</b>	Safeguarding Public Health and Natural Resources	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> – Policy may need to refer to need for potential Health impact Assessments.



	<b>RP 2</b>	Noise Pollution	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Wording of policy to be reviewed in light of PPW emphasis on the need to create appropriate soundscapes and preserve soundscape quality rather than just a focus on noise pollution. Further it is expected that a new TAN 11 on Noise will be issued which will provide further elaboration on air quality, noise and soundscape in more detail providing greater detail as to how they should be addressed in development plans. Therefore, the terminology and scope of RC 2 will be reconsidered as part of the Replacement LDP. Similarly, consideration will be given to including reference to the Tranquil Areas Map produced by NRW
	<b>RP 3</b>	Air and Light Pollution	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy needs to refer to PPW 11, AONB Dark Sky Community nomination/designation and also may need to be amended in light of future Air Quality Management Area review.
	<b>RP 4</b>	Water Pollution and the Protection of Water Resources	<u>Policy functioning effectively but minor updates required</u> – Policy needs to be amended to reflect that SUDS are mandatory for all new developments in Wales
	<b>RP 5</b>	Avoidance of Flood Risk	<u>Revision required</u> - The new TAN 15 and Floodmap for Planning is due to come into force in 2023 which will provide a significantly different context for planning decisions compared to the existing framework. Given this the policy will need to be reviewed to reflect the new TAN.

	<b>RP 6</b>	Land Contamination	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> – Scope of wording will be discussed with Environmental Health colleagues as part of replacement LDP.
	<b>RP 7</b>	Land Instability	<u>Policy functioning effectively</u> – Boundaries of Graig Trewyddfa will need to be reviewed for the proposals map.
	<b>RP 8</b>	Sustainable Waste Management Proposals	Policy functioning effectively and no change required
	<b>RP 9</b>	Landfill Sites	<u>Policy functioning effectively but updates required</u> – Policy will need to reflect latest evidence from the regional monitoring report and amend references to TAN15 to reflect latest version which will be in place in 2023.
	<b>RP 10</b>	Sustainable Waste Management For New Development	Policy functioning effectively and no change required
	<b>RP 11</b>	Agricultural Land - Disposal of Inert Waste	Policy functioning effectively and no change required
	<b>RP 12</b>	Sustainable Development of Mineral Resources	<u>Review Required</u> – Policy needs review to reflect the need to provide apportionment regarding Regional Technical Statement 2. Needs rewrite to reflect the need to provide apportionment re RTS2.
	<b>RP 13</b>	Safeguarding Minerals	Policy functioning effectively and no change required
	<b>RP 14</b>	Mineral Buffer Zones	Policy functioning effectively and no change required

## Appendix 2: Status of LDP Allocations

Ref No.	LDP Ref	Site name	Summary planning / build status	Ownership/ promoter of remaining unbuilt sites	Capacity
1	H1.01	Remainder at former Vetch Field (Phase 2), Glamorgan Street	Majority of the site is being used as a park. Small brownfield opportunities on car park areas off Madoc St at pre planning stage	Council	40
2	H1.02	Llwyn y Bryn Campus, Walter Road	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	200
3	H1.03	Townhill Campus, Townhill Road, Townhill	On site	-	160
4	H1.04	Land between Bog Road and Cefn Hengoed Road, Llansamlet	Planning application refused	Private	70
5	H1.05	Land at Upper Bank, Pentrechwyth	Under construction Further recent planning consent for 30 flats.	-	256
6	H1.06	Land at Jersey Road opposite numbers 16-38, Pentrechwyth	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	20
7	H1.07	Land at rear of 17-93 Carmel Road, Winch Wen	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	65
8	H1.08	Land at Ty Draw Road and Llanerch Road, Bonymaen	Pre planning stage	Council	55
9	H1.09	Land at Northern End of Graigola Road, Glais	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	25
10	H1.10	Land at Tanycoed Road, Clydach	Pre planning stage	Council	20
11	H1.11	Land at Ramsey Road, Clydach	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	60
12	H1.12	Talycoppa Farm, Llansamlet	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	150
13	H1.13	Land at Midland Place, Llansamlet	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	30
14	H1.14	Heol Ddu Farm, Birchgrove	Built	-	23

15	H1.15	Gwernllwynchwyth House, Llansamlet	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	50
16	H1.16	Land at Frederick Place, Llansamlet	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	20
17	H1.17	Former Four Seasons Club, Trallwn	Built	-	41
18	H1.18	Land at David Williams Terrace, Port Tennant	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	15
19	H1.19	Land east of Pontarddulais Road, Gorseinon	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	90
20	H1.20	Parc Melin Mynach, Gorseinon	Built	-	36
21	H1.21	Former Cefn Gorwydd Colliery, Gorwydd Road, Gowerton	Under construction	-	99
22	H1.22	Land at West Street (former Gorseinon Business Park), Gorseinon	Pre planning stage	Council	20
23	H1.23	Land at Carmel Road and Bryntirion Road, Pontlliw	Full planning application being determined	Private	100
24	H1.24	Land at the Poplars, Pontlliw	Full planning consent	Private	12
25	H1.25	Beili Glas, Glebe Road, Loughor	Full planning consent	RSL	98
26	H1.26	Land at Former Penllergaer Civic Offices, Penllergaer	Built	-	80
27	H1.27	Land north of Llewellyn Road, Penllergaer	No activity at this time. Forms a potential later phase of adjacent site which has received planning consent	Private	50
28	H1.28	Remainder at Land East of Bolgoed Brickworks, Bolgoed Road, Pontarddulais	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	50
29	H1.29	Land east of Carreg Teilo, Pontarddulais	Pre planning stage	Private	30
30	H1.30	Land at Tyrisha Farm, Grovesend	Under construction	-	60
31	H1.31	Land off Brynafon Road and Gower View Road, Penyrheol	Under construction	-	144
32	H1.32	South Of Glebe Road, Loughor	Under construction	-	115
33	H1.33	Former Walkers Factory, Pontarddulais Road, Cadle	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	100

34	H1.34	Land adjacent to 114 Brithwen Road, Waunarlywydd	Majority of the site has full planning consent	RSL	15
35	H1.35	Land adjacent to Cockett Pond	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	50
36	H1.36	Penrhos Place, Gendros	Pre planning stage	Council	60
37	H1.37	Manselton Primary School, Manor Road, Manselton	Full planning application being determined	Private	30
38	H1.38	Land at Mynydd Garnllwyd Road, Morriston	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	95
39	H1.39	Land at rear of Glyncollen Primary School, Morriston	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	35
40	H1.40	Brayley Road, Morriston	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	15
41	H1.41	Land at Cadle, Fforestfach	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	50
42	H1.42	Land between Eppynt Road and Bettws Road, Penlan	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Council	10
43	H5.01	Land at Monksland Road, Scurlage	Pre planning stage	Council	25
44	H5.02	Land to the east of Gowerton Road, Three Crosses	No known activity at this stage to bring site forward	Private	15
45	H5.03	Land adjoining Tirmynydd Road, Three Crosses	Pre planning stage	RSL	20
46	H5.04	Land adjoining Pennard Drive, Pennard	Under construction	-	70
47	H5.05	Land at Summerland Lane, Newton	Built	-	61
48	H5.06	Land at Higher Lane, Langland	On site	-	31
49	SD 1.A	South of Glanffrwyd Road, Pontarddulais	Pre planning stage	Private	720
50	SD 1.B	North of Garden Village	Reserved Matters planning consent for the whole site	Private	705
51	SD 1.C	South of A4240, Penllergaer	Under construction	Private	850
52	SD.1.D	West of Llangyfelach Road, Penderry	Outline planning consent. Reserved Matters planning consent for Phases 1A & 3A and Spine Street	Private	1950
53	SD 1.E	North of Clasemont Road, Morriston	Pre planning stage	Private	600
54	SD 1.F	Cefn Coed Hospital, Tycoch	Pre planning stage	Other public sector	500

55	SD 1.G	Northwest of M4 Junction 46, Llangyfelach	Outline planning application being determined	Other public sector	800
56	SD 1.H	North of Waunarlwydd / Fforestfach	Pre planning stage	Private	1319
57	SD.1.I	Swansea Vale	Pre planning stage	Council	450
58	SD.1.J	Central Area and Waterfront	Sites under construction and coming forward	Mixed	906
59	SD 1.K	Remainder of Fabian Way Corridor	Sites have been built and further planning applications being determined	Mixed	525
60	SD.1.L	Tawe Riverside Corridor and Hafod Morfa Copper Works	Copperworks mixed use sites being built. Skyline scheme at pre planning stage. No planning application received for residential development	Mixed	370

## Appendix 3: Glossary and Abbreviations

Term	Explanation
Affordable Housing	Affordable housing for the purposes of the land use planning system is housing where there are secure mechanisms in place to ensure that it is accessible to those who cannot afford market housing, both on first occupation and for subsequent occupiers. Affordable housing includes social rented housing owned by local authorities and RSLs and intermediate housing where prices or rents are above those of social rent but below market housing prices or rents (Planning Policy Wales)
Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)	Report to assess the extent to which policies in the adopted LDP are being successfully implemented (Regulation 37 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations (2005)).
Baseline	A description of the present state of an area against which to measure change.
Candidate Site	Candidate Sites are those nominated by anyone for consideration by the LPA as allocations in an emerging LDP.
Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)	Sets out how and when stakeholders and the community can become involved in the plan making process. The CIS forms part of the Delivery Agreement (see below)
Delivery Agreement (DA)	Is a succinct public statement that contains the Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) setting out how and when stakeholders and the community can become involved in the plan making process and a timetable for preparing/revising an LDP.
Deposit LDP	Is the Plan the Local Planning Authority (LPA) considers is sound and able to be adopted. Subject to a formal six week consultation period in which individuals and organisations can make representations on the Plan.
Evidence Base	Information / data to provide the foundation for the Plan's policies.
Green Infrastructure (GI)	The network of natural and semi-natural features, green spaces, rivers and lakes that intersperse and connect places. Component elements of GI can function at different scales. At the landscape scale, GI can comprise entire ecosystems such as wetlands, waterways and mountain ranges. At a local scale, it might comprise parks, fields, public rights of way, allotments, cemeteries and gardens. At smaller scales, individual urban interventions such as street trees, hedgerows, roadside verges, and green roofs/walls can all contribute to GI networks.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	The screening and appropriate assessment of options required under Part 6 Chapter 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations) - a recognised iterative process which helps determine the likely significant effect on a plan or programme and (where appropriate) assess adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site. The assessment is required to be undertaken by a competent authority in respect of plans or projects which are likely to have a significant effect (alone and in combination with other plans and projects) on a “European site” (see paragraph 5.1.2 of TAN 5), or as a matter of policy a proposed “European site” or Ramsar site, under the provisions of Article 6(3) of the EC Directive 92/43/ECC (the Habitats Directive), regulations 61 and 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010, and, regulation 25 of the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 2007.
Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)	A single integrated assessment which fulfils the requirements and duties for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA),</li> <li>• Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA),</li> <li>• Health Impact Assessment (HIA),</li> <li>• Welsh Language Impact Assessment (WLIA), and</li> <li>• Well-being of Future Generations (WBFG).</li> </ul>
Inspector	The person appointed by the Planning Inspectorate to consider the LDP and undertake the Examination in Public.
Local Planning Authority (LPA)	A planning authority responsible for the preparation of a LDP.
Local Well-being Plan	Under The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Public Service Boards have been established for each local authority area; and prepare a Well-being Plan.
Marine Plan	The Welsh National Marine Plan prepared under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.
Mitigation	Measures to avoid, reduce or offset significant adverse effects.
Planning Obligation	A legal agreement between an applicant and the local planning authority to ensure a development is carried out in a certain way. Also referred to as a Section 106 Agreement
Planning Policy Wales (PPW)	Planning Policy Wales sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Assembly Government.
Pre-deposit stage	The participation and consultation stages prior to deposit (see above).
Short form revision (SFR)	May be appropriate for circumstances where the issues involved are not of sufficient significance to justify undertaking the full plan revision procedure.
Strategic Development Plan (SDP)	Provision is made under the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 for the preparation of SDP’s at a regional level. SDP will have regard to Future Wales and respond at a regional level to strategic issues.



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to plans and programmes. SEA process is derived from European legislation and defined at European level – Directive 2001/42/EC. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004 (SEA Regulations) require a formal “environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use”
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)	Can have a key role in interpreting and expanding on generic policies in LDPs. All SPG should be derived from a LDP policy or, in the case of a master plan/ development brief, from a site allocation.
Sustainability Appraisal (SA)	Tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). Each LPA is required by S62(6) of the 2004 Act to undertake SA of the LDP. This form of SA fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Regulations.
Sustainability Appraisal Report (SA Report)	A document required to be produced as part of the SA process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing the LDP, which also meets the requirement for the Environmental Report under the SEA Regulations. S62(6) of the 2004 Act requires each LPA to prepare a report of the findings of the SA of the LDP. - The SA Report is first produced at the Preferred Strategy stage (the Interim SA Report), expanded at the Deposit LDP sta

## Abbreviations

Acronym	Meaning
AAR	Average Annual Requirement
AMR	Annual Monitoring Report
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
CJC	Corporate Joint Committee
DVM	Development Viability Model
FMfP	Flood Map for Planning
GI	Green Infrastructure
GTAA	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HiAP	Health in All Policies
HMO	House in Multiple Occupation
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
IDP	Infrastructure Delivery Plan
ISA	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
LA	Local Authority
LDP	Local Development Plan
LEAP	Locally Equipped Area of Play
LHMA	Local Housing Market Assessment
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LVA	Landscape and Visual Appraisal
LVIA	Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
MYE	Mid Year Estimate
NGA	National Growth Area
NPT	Neath Port Talbot
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PBSA	Purpose Built Student Accommodation

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
PPW	Planning Policy Wales
REA	Renewable Energy Assessment
REDP	Regional Economic Development Plan
REF	Regional Economic Framework
RIGS	Regionally Important Geological Sites
RM	Reserved Matters
RSL	Registered Social Landlord
RTS	Regional Technical Statement
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SDA	Strategic Development Area
SDP	Strategic Development Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFCA	Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment
SFR	Short Form Revision
SHPZ	Strategic Housing Policy Zone
SME	Small and Medium Sized Enterprises
SMNR	Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
SoNaRR	Second State of Natural Resources Report
SPG	Supplementary Planning Guidance
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
SW	South Wales
TAN	Technical Advice Note
TNDIA	Tourism Needs and Development Impact Assessment
WDQR	Welsh Development Quality Requirements
WG	Welsh Government
WLAP	Welsh Language Action Plan
WLIA	Welsh Language Impact Assessment
WLSA	Welsh Language Sensitive Area
WPMR	Waste Plan Monitoring Report

# Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan (2023-2038)

## Delivery Agreement January 2023 Draft



# **Swansea Replacement Local Development Plan (2023-2038)**

## **Delivery Agreement (Draft)**

**January 2023**

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# Part 1: Introduction

## 1.1. Background

1.1.1. The Swansea Local Development Plan (LDP) was adopted by the Council on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The LDP sets out the Council's planning framework for the development and use of land within the County boundary for the period up to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

1.1.2. An up-to-date development plan is an essential part of the plan-led system in Wales. In line with legislation<sup>1</sup>, the Council is required to undertake a review of the plan no longer than 4 years from its date of adoption, in effect by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 to ensure the LDP and supporting evidence is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions. In line with this requirement and the findings of the Annual Monitoring Report 3 (AMR3) for the existing LDP, a report of the review of the LDP has been prepared which concludes a full review of the LDP is necessary. This Delivery Agreement sets out how and when the full review will be undertaken.

## 1.2. Purpose of the DA

1.2.1. This Draft Delivery Agreement (DA) is an important part of the Replacement LDP preparation process. In line with national guidance, the DA should be a succinct public statement containing two main parts:

- A **Timetable** of the key stages of Plan preparation; and
- A **Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)** which details how and when the community will be able to get involved in the plan preparation process

1.2.2. The DA is therefore a key stage in the replacement LDP process, setting out how the process will be taken forward with a particular focus on how the Council will provide opportunities for consultees and the local community to be involved in its preparation. Delivery of the Replacement LDP in accordance with the DA will be considered as part of the tests of the plan's soundness, as defined by relevant legislation, regulations and Welsh Government guidance.

1.2.3. The DA confirms how and when the Council will assess and appraise the emerging Plan throughout its production and highlights that the RLDP is scheduled to be adopted in September 2026 once the necessary adoption procedures have been concluded.

1.2.4. The DA has been prepared in accordance with Welsh Government regulations and guidance, including The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and the Local Development Plans Manual 2020 Edn 3 (The Manual).

## 1.3. Stages in the Approval of the Delivery Agreement

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<sup>1</sup> Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (Section 69(1) and LDP Regulation 41(1))

1.3.1. The process of developing and adopting the DA will be undertaken over the following stages:

- Prepare Draft DA incorporating CIS (This document)
- Present Draft DA to Full Council for approval (2 March 2023)
- Undertake a 4-week consultation on the Draft DA and Review Report (dates to be confirmed)
- Following consultation, consider responses received and make any necessary amendment to the Draft DA
- Present final DA to Full Council (date to be confirmed)
- Submit the DA to Welsh Government for approval
- Upon agreement from the WG, publish the DA on the Councils website and place for inspection at the principal offices of the Local Planning authority (currently Civic Centre)
- During the plan preparation process, periodically review progress against the DA.

1.3.2. The approved DA will be the essential project management tool to guide the preparation of the RLDP and the LPA is committed to the stated timescales and consultation processes. Adherence to the approved or any approved revision to the DA will form part of the tests of soundness of the plan that the appointed Inspector will assess at the Examination stage.

#### **1.4. Preparation of the Replacement LDP**

1.4.1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the 2015 Planning (Wales) (Act) requires the Council to prepare a replacement LDP setting out its objectives for the development and use of land in Swansea over the Replacement Plan Period (2023 to 2038) and its policies to implement them. This period allows 12 years to implement the Replacement Plan following proposed adoption in 2026.

1.4.2. In preparing the LDP, the Council will need to take account of a wide range of legislation, policies and other initiatives, at European, national and local levels of government. Under the Withdrawal Act, EU derived domestic legislation such as existing environmental regulations that implement EU Directives, which were in force immediately prior to the end of the transition period, will continue to form part of UK domestic law after 31 December 2020 until amended by new legislation. As a result, they remain relevant to the LDP preparation process. The Council will also need to consider relevant social, economic and environmental considerations.

1.4.3. In preparing the RLDP, the 2004 Act (as amended by the 2015 Act requires the Council) to have regard to:

- Current national policies (the key national policy will include Planning Policy Wales (currently Edition 11) and Technical Advice Notes
- Any Strategic Development Plan (SDP) for the area (though there is unlikely to be an SDP adopted before the RLDP is completed), and the National Development Framework for Wales (Future Wales – The National Plan 2040)



- The resources likely to be available for implementing the Replacement Plan

1.4.4. In addition, the preparation of the RLDP will have regard to other key legislation including the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (WBFGA, 2015), the Equality Act 2010, the Environment (Wales) 2016 Act and key assessment processes including Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Assessment.

1.4.5. In accordance with Welsh Government LDP Manual (Edition 3, 2020), the Council will aim to achieve the following key outcomes in the preparation of the RLDP:

- Support sustainable development and quality places based around the National Sustainable Placemaking Outcomes, aligned with national policy (set out in PPW) integrated with an SA/SEA/HRA, including Welsh language and the requirements of the WBFG Act 2015.
- Be based on and underpinned by early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals.
- Be based on a robust understanding of the role and function of an area(s) including the functional linkages to areas beyond administrative boundaries.
- Be distinctive by having plans setting out clearly how their area will develop and change, giving certainty for communities, developers and business.
- Be resilient to climate change (using the latest UK Climate Projections, flood risk and vulnerability assessment data) and support the transition to a low carbon society in line with the latest carbon reduction targets and budgets as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act (Part 2). The principles of Placemaking, the Sustainable Transport Hierarchy and the Energy Hierarchy as set out in PPW must be adhered to.
- Ensure the sustainable management of natural resources in accordance with the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 and other relevant legislation.
- Deliver what is intended through deliverable and viable plans, taking into account necessary infrastructure requirements, financial viability and other market factors.
- Be proactive and responsive with plans, kept up-to-date and flexible to accommodate change.

## **1.5. Sustainability Appraisal incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment**

1.5.1. Sustainable development is at the heart of the development plan process. The RLDP must ensure it contributes to achieving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being goals of Wales, as required by the WBFGA 2015.

1.5.2. The preparation of the RLDP will need to be informed by Sustainability Appraisal, including Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by European Directive 2001/42/EC and the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programs (Wales) Regulations 2004 and the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the 2015 Act). As a matter of good practice, the SA and SEA processes

have been combined into one iterative process. The integrated process will be followed for the preparation of the RLDP as was the case for the preparation of the Adopted LDP. In addition, other legislation has introduced additional assessment requirements that should be addressed as part of the plan preparation process including consideration of health and equalities impacts. Consequently, an **Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)** which combines the SA/SEA process with other assessments will be undertaken.

1.5.3. The ISA will ensure that the required 5 stages of SEA are incorporated into the assessment process:

**Stage A** – Setting the context, establishing baseline and deciding on the SA Scope and Objectives

**Stage B** – Developing and refining reasonable alternatives and assessing effects

**Stage C** – Preparing the SA Report

**Stage D** – Consulting on the draft plan and the environmental report

**Stage E** – Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the plan or programme on the environment

1.5.4. The Scoping Report for the ISA will be consulted on as part of the Pre-Deposit participation stage set out in the timetable.

1.5.5. Following this once the ISA Framework has been scoped out and established it will be used to inform the assessment of the proposed RLDP policies and proposals. The ISA will be an iterative process and assessment reports will be prepared to inform each key stage of RLDP preparation.

1.5.6. At the outset of the ISA process, there will be an opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the ISA Scoping Report that sets out how the ISA process will be undertaken. The findings of the ISA work will be evidenced at key stages in the Replacement LDP preparation process; Reports will be prepared, and subject to consultation with stakeholders, in parallel with the Preferred Strategy consultation and Deposit Replacement LDP consultation. A Final ISA Report will be submitted along with all other Replacement LDP documentation to the Welsh Government for examination. The statutory Environment Bodies will be consulted at all the stages referred to above and there will be wider on-going dialogue with these bodies as the process proceeds.

1.5.7. The ISA will include the following stage documents:

- **The ISA Scoping Report** - This will set out the current state of the environment and will identify the existing sustainability issues within Swansea to provide baseline information for assessment and monitoring through a series of Objectives and a Sustainability Framework. It will set out a review of relevant plans, policies, programmes and strategies at European, national, regional and local levels, indicating their implications for the RLDP process. This will be consulted on with statutory consultation bodies for the ISA as part of Pre-Deposit Participation as set out in the timetable.

- **The integrated Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report (ISAR).** This will consider the likely effects of the RLDP Preferred Strategy, aims and objectives. It will also consider the effects of any reasonable alternative strategies. The ISAR will be published at the same time as the Preferred Strategy consultation and all stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the document.
- The integrated **Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)** (Environmental Report). This will consider the likely effects of the Deposit version of the RLDP. It will assess the social, economic, cultural and environmental impacts likely to arise from the policies and allocations set out in the plan. The SAR will be published at the same time as the Deposit Plan consultation and all stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the document.
- The **Adoption Statement.** A Statement published by the Council that sets out how the ISA has been accounted for in the RLDP. The Adoption statement is published following the Adoption of the RLDP.

## 1.6. Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.6.1. The Council must also undertake a HRA which is a separate assessment process to the ISA. HRA will inform the preparation of the of the RLDP's strategy, policies and allocations and will assess any potential impact on a designated Natura 2000 site (a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), or a Ramsar site). In accordance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC where a land use plan would have the potential to significantly affect a site, a detailed Appropriate Assessment is required to assess the impacts and to consider the suitability of options and mitigation measures.

1.6.2. The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) will be prepared concurrently with the Deposit Plan and will be published with both the Deposit Plan and the Environmental Report. There are two stages of HRA of which the statutory consultation body Natural Resources Wales will be consulted:

- **Stage 1 HRA Screening** – To determine whether any of the conservation objectives of any European Site could be adversely affected. This will be undertaken at an appropriate time having regard to the Preferred Strategy;
- **Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment** – If the HRA screening indicates the LDP Review is likely to have significant effects, then a further level of assessment will be needed. This will assess whether the RLDP could adversely affect the integrity of one or more European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. If potential adverse effects are identified the Appropriate Assessment will need to consider mitigation measures to control identified impacts.

## 1.7. Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WBFGA)

1.7.1. The WBFGA gained Royal Assent in April 2015. The Act aims to make a difference to the lives of people in Wales in relation to the seven well being goals and the five ways of working. The seven well being goals relate to 'a prosperous Wales', 'a resilient Wales', 'a healthier Wales', 'a more equal Wales', 'a Wales of cohesive communities', 'a Wales of vibrant culture and Welsh language' and a

'globally responsible Wales'. The five ways of working are long term, integration, involvement, collaboration and prevention.

1.7.2. Given that the promotion of sustainable development is a core underlying principle of LDP's, there are clear links between the RLDP and the WBFGA. A requirement of the WBFGA is that a Local Wellbeing Plan be produced, The preparation of the RLDP will fully consider the latest Well being Plan and the Well being assessment will form part of the ISA evidence base.

## **1.8. Joint Local Development Plans and Regional Collaboration**

1.8.1. Collaboration is a requirement of the WBFGA (2015). LPAs are also required to demonstrate that all opportunities for joint working and collaboration on both plan preparation and the evidence base have been exhausted. This is particularly relevant where the LDPs of neighbouring authorities are on similar preparation timescales and where there are strong cross-boundary linkages. Given the plan preparation position of our neighbouring authorities in the South West Wales region undertaking a Joint Local Development Plan is not feasible.

1.8.2. However, significant cross boundary working is being undertaken currently with Neath Port Talbot and authorities in the wider region (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park) on various evidence base studies to inform respective RLDP's. This includes a joint commission with NPT to prepare Local Housing Market Assessments for respective authorities and a joint Economic and Housing Growth Assessment for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. In addition, the Council is part of a regional project to define the spatial extent of the Future Wales Swansea Bay and Llanelli National Growth Area to inform RLDP's for the respective authorities. Further joint working opportunities will be explored with neighbouring authorities on background work and evidence base studies as part of the development of the RLDP and any future work to inform the future South West Wales Strategic Development Plan.

## **1.9. Evidence Base Studies**

1.9.1. There is a need to update the evidence base, including undertaking various evidence base assessments throughout the preparation of the RLDP. At this stage it is envisaged that this will include:

- Population, Economic and Housing Growth Assessments
- Employment Land Review
- Local Housing Market Assessment
- Future Wales National Growth Area Review
- Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment
- Strategic Transport Assessment
- Retail Assessment
- Urban Capacity Study
- Settlement Boundary Review, including village assessments
- Financial Viability Assessments
- Infrastructure Requirements Review
- Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Assessment

- Green Infrastructure Assessment
- Strategic Flood Consequence Assessment
- Minerals and Waste Assessment
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment and review of the Welsh Language Sensitive Area
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Review of South Wales Regional Technical Statement for Aggregates

1.9.2. The above list is not definitive and additional evidence base requirements may emerge as plan revision progresses.

## 1.10. Supplementary Planning Guidance

1.10.1. The RLDP will contain the necessary range of policies to guide the development and use of land in Swansea over the plan period and to provide the basis for determining planning applications. Although Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) does not form part of the RLDP, it will be used after the Plan has been adopted to provide more detailed guidance on the way the policies may be applied, or they could take the form of local level Place Plans. Any SPG produced will be consistent with the relevant LDP and clearly cross referenced to the policies and proposals it supplements. For example, this could be on specific sites, or to cover general themes, such as open space. Since adoption of the existing LDP, a suite of key SPG have been produced and adopted in line with the SPG programme.

1.10.2. The need for new/amended SPG to support the RLDP will be considered as part of the RLDP preparation process and will be likely identified as part of the RLDP Preferred Strategy stage. The purpose of the guidance will be to supplement the policies of the RLDP and not to supersede or replace what is in the Plan.

1.10.3. Any new SPG will initially be prepared in draft form pending adoption of the RLDP. The SPG must be subject to full consultation and engagement with interested parties, be in accordance with the protocols outlined in the CIS as set out in Part 3 and all responses will be considered before it is finalised. This will ensure that the SPG may in due course be treated as a material consideration in the determination of relevant planning applications or during appeals.

## 1.11. Independent Examination and Tests of Soundness

1.11.1. The Local Planning Authority will submit its Deposit RLDP, associated documents and representations to WG for consideration of its “soundness” by a WG appointed independent inspector at an “Examination in Public.” A straightforward interpretation of whether a plan is ‘sound’ in guidance is that the plan ‘*shows good judgement*’ and is ‘*able to be trusted*’.

1.11.2. The LPA will need to demonstrate that the plan meets the following three tests of soundness as set out in the Development Plans Manual:

**Test 1:** Does the plan fit? (i.e., is it clear that the LDP is consistent with other plans?)

**Test 2:** Is the plan appropriate? (i.e., is the plan appropriate for the area in the light of the evidence?)

**Test 3:** Will the plan deliver? (i.e., is it likely to be effective?)

1.11.3. The Inspector will have regard to the evidence submitted with the Plan and the representations received at the Deposit stage in order to determine whether the Plan meets the above soundness tests. Following the examination the Inspector will prepare a report, which sets out their findings together with any changes they consider, are necessary to make the plan 'sound'. The conclusions by the Inspector are binding on the authority and unless the Welsh Government intervenes, the Council must accept the changes and adopt the RLDP. If the Inspector considers the plan fundamentally unsound then the plan would not be recommended for adoption.

## Part 2: The Timetable

### 2.1. Overview

2.1.1. Part Two sets out the Timetable for the preparation of the LDP and looks at how the process is to be managed. It highlights the potential barriers to completing the LDP, their impacts on progress and the potential mitigation measures proposed to reduce the risks identified.

### 2.2. Summary Timetable

2.2.1. The summarised timetable below in **Table 1** outlines the main stages of RLDP preparation and the key dates for consultation. The Timetable is also illustrated in chart form at **Appendix 1**, which includes an explanation of the key stages and procedures to be followed.

2.2.2. **Table 1** is split into Definitive and Indicative stages:

**Definitive:** Those stages up to and including the statutory Deposit stage, which are under the direct control of the Council to which every effort will be made to adhere to this part of the timetable.

**Indicative:** Those stages beyond the statutory Deposit stage which are dependent on extraneous factors, such as number of representations received, over which the Council has less control. Following the closure of the statutory consultation period on the Deposit Plan and prior to submission of the plan, the Council will update the timetable with definitive timings for the remaining plan stages. In line with LDP Regulations within 3 months of the close of the Deposit the timetable will be reviewed and resubmitted once the Council has entered into a Service Level Agreement with the Planning Inspectorate.

<b>Table 1 – Summary Timetable</b>			
<b>Definitive Stage</b>		<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Delivery Agreement</b> Draft DA Consultation, submission of Final DA to Welsh Government for approval	<b>March/April 2023</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Pre-Deposit Participation</b>	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>June 2024</b>
	Evidence base preparation	<b>Jan 2023</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>
	Call for Candidate Sites – 12 weeks	<b>Aug 2023</b>	<b>Oct 2023</b>
	Consultation on SA Scoping Report – 6 weeks	<b>Aug 2023</b>	<b>Aug 2023</b>

	Preparation and Engagement on generation of Vision and Objectives and Strategic Options	<b>September 2023</b>	<b>January 2024</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Pre-Deposit Consultation</b> Consultation on Preferred Strategy, Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report – 8 weeks	<b>July 2024</b>	<b>August 2024</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Deposit Participation/Consultation</b> Consultation on Deposit Plan, ISA, HRA and Initial Consultation Report	<b>June 2025</b>	<b>July 2025</b>

<b>Indicative Stage</b>		<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Submission</b> Submission of Deposit Plan and all supporting evidence to WG	<b>December 2025</b>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Examination</b> Pre hearing meeting and Examination Hearing Sessions	<b>January 2026</b> <b>February 2026</b>	<b>July 2026</b> <b>April 2026</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Publication of Inspectors Report</b> Local Planning Authority to receive binding Inspectors Report, check for factual errors and to Publish on its website.	<b>August 2026</b>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Adoption</b> Full Council adopts the Replacement LDP	<b>September 2026</b>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Monitoring and Review</b> Submission of first Annual Monitoring Report	<b>October 2028</b>	

### 2.3. Factors Considered within the Timetable

2.3.1. The Timetable is fundamentally driven by the need to ensure that the RLDP can be adopted as expediently as possible and to minimise the period after the current LDP expires on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026. The timetable has also had regard to Welsh Governments expectations that replacement plans should be prepared in 3.5 years. Based on the above, the Council has sought to set out a realistic timetable of 3 years 3 months from commencement in July 2023 to adoption in September 2026. This would mean on adoption there is 12 years of the plan period remaining (i.e. up to 2038) which is in line with WG guidance.

2.3.2. In developing the timetable, the Council have had regard to the Development Plans Manual and have accounted for lead in timings to obtain Member Decision, Timings between statutory stages, staff resources and budgets and the Procedural Guidance issued by PEDW. In respect of member decision making, updates and



recommendations relating to LDP progress will be reported to Members prior to any statutory consultation stage. Meetings of the Council are typically every 6 weeks, however meetings may be called outside these times where requested by the Head of Planning and City Regeneration. The DA Timetable takes into account these meeting cycles and report preparation lead in times, as well as Local Government elections.

## **2.4. Front loading**

2.4.1. The Community Involvement Scheme in Part 3 sets out the opportunities for early and continued involvement. National guidance emphasises the need for Frontloading. Frontloading will provide a Preferred Strategy of sufficient detail to allow a meaningful consultation stage which will influence the content of the Deposit Plan. This means obtaining detailed evidence up front and early in the plan making process will be essential to inform delivery of the Preferred Strategy and subsequent plan stages. Therefore, it is key that stakeholders engage with the LDP Team during Stage 2 (August 2023 to January 2024) in evidence base collation and stakeholder engagement.

2.4.2. A key part of the early evidence base gathering will be the call for Candidate Sites, scheduled to be during August to October 2023. The need for adequate evidence will be relevant either to those proposing new sites or supporting the retention of as yet unimplemented allocations to be retained in the RLDP. It is clear a greater amount of evidence bases to support sites at the Candidate Site Stage is essential as an inadequate level of information to demonstrate delivery can be a reason for discounting sites. Any barriers to development will need to be explored upfront if sites are to have a realistic prospect of being included in the RLDP. Key sites and Growth areas will need to be identified by the Council for inclusion in the Preferred Strategy while other potential sites will continue to be evaluated up to Deposit stage. Ultimately, sites will need to be proven to be suitable and deliverable.

2.4.3. Similarly, the Preferred Strategy consultation at Stage 3 will set out a range of supporting background evidence used to inform the strategy. It is important that the plan and this evidence is informed by stakeholders during this key consultation stage. The Council will welcome participation from all those with an interest in shaping the future of Swansea.

## **2.5. Resources**

2.5.1. Officers within the Councils Placemaking and Strategic Planning service area will lead in the production and management of the RLDP process. This includes the preparation of any consultation documents and the management of the definitive stages (1-4) of the RLDP preparation process and progression to submission of the RLDP to the WG for Examination (Stage 6). The Placemaking and Strategic Planning Manager will be responsible for the overall delivery of the RLDP while the Principal Officers will lead on the day-to-day project management of the plan's preparation and delivery.

2.5.2. Whilst the following officer time is scheduled to be dedicated to the RLDP preparation process, this will be monitored throughout plan preparation and additional resource sought as necessary:

- Placemaking and Strategic Planning Manager x 1 (20%)
- Principal Placemaking Officer X 1 (20%)
- Principal Planning Officers x 2 (75%)
- Senior Placemaking Officer (20%)
- Senior Planning Officers x 3 (50-75%)
- Planning Officer x 1 (75%)
- Planning Technician x 1 (90%)

2.5.3. Officers from other service areas will also be involved in various aspects of the plan preparation process as required including contributing to various evidence-based studies, assessments and consultation support. This is likely to include, but not limited to, officer support from Development Management, Housing, Economic Development, Regeneration, Education, Highways, Drainage, Nature Conservation, Landscape, Environmental Health, Democratic Services, Legal Services and Communication and Engagement.

2.5.4. Regional collaboration is ongoing with neighbouring authorities in the SWW region on joint evidence bases and continuation of this close working relationship will be crucial to the preparation of the RLDP. Where necessary, external consultants will be commissioned to undertake specific technical studies and assessments with some studies underway. An initial assessment has been carried out of the elements of plan preparation that are likely to require external consultant support and financial resources have been secured.

2.5.5. A sufficient budget will be made available to progress the RLDP to adoption within the prescribed timetable. This is expected to cover expenditure relating to all elements of preparation of the RLDP and the Independent Examination.

## **2.6. Monitoring and Review of the DA**

2.6.1. The DA acts as the project management tool for delivery of the RLDP to ensure the timetable and the CIS strategy is being delivered. Whilst WG guidance allows for an additional slippage period of 3 months, beyond this, the Council will need to prepare an updated DA which will require approval by the Council prior to WG agreement. In addition to an extended timescale delay the DA may need to be amended if the following circumstances occur during the preparation of the RLDP:

- Significant change to the resources available to undertake preparation of the RLDP
- Significant changes to European, UK or Welsh legislation directly affecting the RLDP preparation process

- Any other change in circumstances that will materially affect the delivery of the RLDP in accordance with the DA
- Significant changes to the Community Involvement Scheme

## **2.7. Risk Management**

2.7.1. The definitive stage of the timetable is ambitious but is considered to be deliverable based upon the expected resource input into the RLDP process. Whilst the Council will seek to avoid departure from the timetable, the Council have identified a number of risk areas that could lead to departure from the proposed timetable. The potential risks and proposed mitigation measures to minimise risks are set out in **Appendix 2**. The Council will monitor the timetable and will report any significant deviation (of more than 3 months) to the Welsh Government and stakeholders.

## Part 3: The Community Involvement Scheme

### 3.1. Overview

3.1.1. Part Three sets out how the Council proposes to engage with stakeholders and the community in the preparation of the RLDP. It is essential that the right people are involved at the right time to build consensus and ensure early and effective stakeholder engagement to shape the spatial strategy, policies and proposals of the plan.

3.1.2. The LDP Regulations require the Council to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders in preparing the RLDP including the general public and Specific and General Consultation bodies (see **Appendix 3**). **Table 2** sets out the key consultation periods with further detail of engagement at each stage contained in the detailed CIS in **Appendix 4**, which sets out who will be formally involved in the RLDP process and how and when the participation and consultation will occur. Similarly, the previous CIS has been reviewed in terms of lessons learned to inform the current scheme. This is set out in **Appendix 5**.

### 3.2. Key Principles for Engagement

3.2.1. The **Swansea Corporate Plan 'Delivering a Successful and Sustainable Swansea' (2022-23)** demonstrates the Council's emphasis on effective engagement with communities and stakeholders in the work the Council undertakes.

3.2.2. The Draft **Consultation and Engagement Strategy 2022** seeks to ensure effective consultation and engagement with residents and partner organisations to improve the access, quality and delivery of its services and the decisions it takes. The draft strategy sets out the Council's approach to assist in engaging with residents and service users and identifies the key principles for delivery in respect of consultation and engagement in Swansea.

3.2.3. The key guiding principles of delivery in the Consultation and Engagement Strategy around 'Planning', 'Doing' and 'Decision Making, Review and Feedback' have informed the CIS and will inform the detailed engagement plans for each stage of the RLDP process. These principles were developed using **The National principles for Public Engagement in Wales and the National Children and Young Peoples participation standards for Wales**. The strategy also supports the Council in meeting its duty under the WBFGA and the Equality Act. In developing the detailed consultation arrangements at subsequent stages, the team will engage with the Council's Engagement Officer to ensure effective engagement. Ultimately any consultation on the RLDP will need to adhere to the four **Gunning principles**:

- **Consultation should take place at a 'formative stage'** - In practice this means that the decision should not already have been taken
- **Consultation should include sufficient information** – In order that consultees can give the matter intelligent consideration

- **Adequate time needs to be provided for consideration and response** – In practice this means that consultees must be given enough opportunity to take part in the consultation in the time allowed
- **Consideration of consultation responses** – We need to be able to demonstrate how the consultation responses have been considered within the decision making process

### 3.3. Who will be involved?

3.3.1. The RLDP, once adopted will guide the development and use of land across Swansea Council administrative area up to 2038. Therefore, the Council welcomes engagement from individuals and organisations in shaping this important strategy document which will become the main decision-making framework for the assessment of planning applications and to guide the Councils ambitious Placemaking agenda.

3.3.2. The LDP Regulations set out the legal requirements for community involvement and participation. This sets out that certain types of stakeholders need to be involved at specific stages of the RLDP process. These Specific and General consultation bodies are set out in **Appendix 3** and will be consulted as considered necessary. The Council will seek to exceed these requirements where considered necessary and a list of 'other consultation bodies' are also included in **Appendix 3**.

3.3.3. **Appendix 4** sets out the detailed timetable for community engagement setting out which stakeholders will be involved at each stage. This sets out what the Council intends to do as a minimum in the preparation of the RLDP. Where time and resources allow the Council will aim to provide additional opportunities for engagement. To enhance engagement the Council's RLDP website will be updated regularly to keep stakeholders informed. Efforts will be made to make consultation processes as accessible as possible.

3.3.4. Community involvement throughout the development of the LDP should be a continuous process that enables the local community to be part of the decision making process; creating the sort of place they want to live in, at a stage when this can make a difference. The CIS sets out how the Council proposes to proactively engage with and involve the local community and stakeholders in the preparation of the RLDP. It will be important that the right people are involved at the right time to ensure effective frontloading of issues and to secure effective and meaningful engagement in the plan making process. The CIS describes the ways in which the community can influence the RLDP at the different stages of the Plan preparation process. The timetable set out in Part 2 and **Appendix 1** should be read in accordance with this. The detailed CIS is set out in **Appendix 4**.

3.3.5. It is recognised that at certain stages it will be more effective to engage a targeted range of stakeholders or representative bodies. To keep participation effective, meaningful and manageable stakeholder events will be targeted to the most relevant bodies/representors. All statutory consultation stages will be subject to full public consultation. The Council will seek to involve the following external groups in preparation of the Replacement LDP:

### 3.4. External Groups

3.4.1. **Members of the public, interested persons and organisations:** The Council will produce and maintain a consultation database that includes interested individuals and organisations who have requested to be informed of the RLDP process (see para 3.17). Anyone with an interest in the future place-making and sustainable development of Swansea can be added to the database. We encourage interested parties to register their details so they can be kept up to date about forthcoming relevant consultations. Efforts will also be made to engage with communities, businesses, and local organisations to ensure a broad range of feedback. A list of these has been collated using contact details found online who will be notified to see if they wish to be contacted as part of future consultation stages. This is not an exhaustive list and any group not included in **Appendix 3** can join the consultation database.

3.4.2. **Community Councils:** The existing network of Community Councils across Swansea will be a key contact for the dissemination of information within their local area and a link to their local area. Accordingly, the CC's will be consulted on all key stages and through their communication channels will assist the Council in raising awareness of the RLDP to their local constituents. The Community Councils will advise on the land use aspirations they have for their community so are encouraged to contribute to consultation stages. Specific reference should be paid to consultation stages to ensure meetings can be programmed early to ensure comments can be submitted within prescribed time periods.

3.4.3. **Swansea Council Developer Forum:** The Developer Forum is a key engagement group in delivering the Council's ambitious Placemaking agenda. The forum which is made up local and regional developers, house builders, Registered Social Landlords and planning agents will be an Important asset as it brings groups involved in development in Swansea together with policy makers. The Council will engage with the Developer Forum to shape the future strategy but to also ensure that the timing and phasing of sites is robust and based on up to date information.

3.4.4. **Partnership Groups:** There a range of Partnership groups across Swansea who will have a potential interest in contributing to shaping the future land use plan. They can act as single points of contact for groups of people and, consequently, can play an important role in raising awareness of the RLDP, engaging the wider community and helping disseminate information. A key partnership group that the Council will engage with is the **Swansea Public Service Board** to ensure the RLDP aligns with the Local Well Being Plan. The PSB covers a range of interested parties who can contribute to the emerging RLDP and they will be actively involved during preparation of the plan.

3.4.5. **Businesses and Landowners:** Efforts will be made to engage the business community at key stages and interested businesses are encouraged to register their details on the LDP Database. A key part of the RLDP process will be the Call for Candidate Sites. Landowners therefore across Swansea who may have an interest in their land being considered for development will need to follow the Council's

website for details of the Call for Candidate Sites process. This will set out the threshold for sites to be considered and the level of information required. All sites must be submitted during the Call for Sites consultation stage.

**3.4.6. Consultation Bodies:** The Specific and General consultation bodies in **Appendix 3** will be engaged as considered necessary throughout the RLDP process at each of the formal consultation stages and informally as appropriate. Specific bodies include the Welsh Government and those bodies with specific functions that apply to the RLDP area (e.g., the Swansea Bay University Health Board and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water). Authority must also consult UK Government Departments where aspects of the plan appear to affect their interests and concerns. Similarly, the SEA process requires specific 'Environmental Consultation bodies' to be consulted at key stages. These are National Resources Wales and CADW. In addition the Council can also involve at its discretion' such other persons or groups who may have an interest in matters relating to development in the area'. These have been grouped under 'Other Consultation Bodies' and are listed in **Appendix 3** and will be consulted as considered appropriate.

**3.4.7. Seldom Heard Stakeholders:** Seldomly heard stakeholders, are groups or individuals who have traditionally been absent in the plan preparation process. Additional effort will be required to ensure these stakeholders are represented albeit within the parameters of the specified participation/consultation periods and resource limits. These groups include but are not limited to:

- Young people and children
- People with disabilities
- Older people
- People with learning difficulties
- Homeless people
- Ethnic minorities
- Gypsies and Travellers

3.4.8. Key consultation groups representing some of the above interests have been identified, and the team will work with relevant Council contacts to identify the most appropriate forms of engagement with these groups as appropriate. For example trusted intermediaries may be used, as appropriate, in order to gain the views of particular groups or individuals who lack the confidence to engage directly in the process.

### **3.5. Within the council**

3.5.1. It will be important that the RLDP secures effective engagement from officers across the Authority as the land use strategy will deliver on the aims and objectives of a range of Council departments. Similarly, engagement from elected members will be of critical importance.

**3.5.2. Councillors/Elected Members:** Elected members of Swansea Council are crucial stakeholders in the Replacement Plan preparation because they represent individuals and communities within their ward. Therefore, members will play an essential role in the RLDP by providing information to local residents and informing the team of issues and opportunities in their area that need to be addressed as part of the plan. More widely members represent wider public interests as they are responsible for taking decisions on RLDP matters that go beyond ward level affecting the whole of the County. Engagement with members will be undertaken throughout the process of RLDP preparation which will involve as appropriate briefing on issues through members seminars at key stages, presentation of statutory stages to Council and will be notified prior to each consultation stage. The Cabinet member (Cllr David Hopkins) with responsibility for the Local Development Plan will be closely engaged in the preparation of the RLDP.

**3.5.3. LDP Member Advisory Groups:** It is proposed that relevant Members are convened with suitable regularity to provide an opportunity to focus exclusively on issues relating to the LDP. The make up of the group is to be decided but could include Cabinet members and have representation from across parties. This will facilitate continued engagement with senior members and officers throughout the plan preparation process. It will provide opportunities to inform and consult Councillors at various stages of LDP preparation and provide a sounding board for issues arising.

**3.5.4. Corporate Policy Team:** Officers leading on the RLDP will work closely with the Council's Corporate Policy Team who support the delivery, co-ordination and administration of the Public Services Board and lead the Council's contribution to the Local Well-being Plan.

**3.5.5. Scrutiny :** All scrutiny activity within the Council is managed by the Scrutiny Programme Committee. Where necessary LDP preparation will be monitored by the Development and Regeneration Performance Panel.

**3.5.6. Officers:** Officers from a range of service areas will provide key inputs into the development of the RLDP. Key engagement will occur with departments throughout the process including officer engagement workshops. A RLDP officer working group may be set up to facilitate this process.

### **3.6. Analysis of Previous CIS Strategy**

3.6.1. The Council has reviewed the previous CIS to inform the development of the CIS for the RLDP. Specifically, given the improvements in technology and the experience learned from the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of changing working practices the RLDP will now rely on greater use of a more digital focused strategy for engagement for disseminating information which will reach a wider audience and will focus on opportunities to better engage seldom heard groups. In addition, it is considered improvements can be made to make the webpages more streamlined



and accessible, the use of a dedicated consultation software to assist in facilitating electronic submission of representations and also the preparation of summary leaflets/Easy read of key documents as appropriate to make consultation documents more accessible to a wider demographic of stakeholders. This review is set out in **Appendix 5** setting out aspects that went well and identifies areas that could be improved upon.

### 3.7. Methods of Engagement

3.7.1. There are a large number of different consultation methods and it is important that the correct ones are used. The CIS sets out potential methods of engagement and at which stage of the RLDP they may be used. In delivering the Community Involvement Scheme the RLDP team will utilise the consultation toolkit to help facilitate the most appropriate opportunities and will liaise with the Councils Consultation Coordinator in the detailed planning of future consultations. Details of the emerging RLDP consultations will be widely publicised to reach as much of the community as possible, to inform people and set out how they can become involved. Methods of engagement may include:

- Direct contact (preferably by email, or letter)
- RLDP information posted on RLDP webpages
- Engagement with Elected Members via members seminars
- Public Meetings/Virtual Meetings
- Press releases
- Production of Summary Leaflets / Easy Read versions of consultation material
- Social Media (e.g. Facebook, Twitter)
- Drop in sessions
- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Workshops
- Deposit of documents in main Council offices, libraries, Customer Contact Centre where appropriate
- Public exhibitions
- Webinars
- Site Notices displayed regarding proposed land allocations at Deposit Consultation stage

3.7.2. It is clear from the review of the previous CIS that engagement needs to take into account the individual needs of those who want to take part. Therefore, the Council will seek to get the appropriate balance considering time and officer resources between in person engagement alongside virtual engagement and will maximise the distribution of information digitally but will also present consultation information in paper form as appropriate.

### **3.8. Stakeholders – What we expect of you**

3.8.1. In order to ensure stakeholder comments can be considered as part of key consultation stages they must be 'duly made'. That is they must be submitted within the prescribed timescales. **Table 2** below and the CIS in **Appendix 4** sets out the timescales where key consultation stages will be undertaken and where we will seek your involvement with specific details of the exact consultation dates published near the time of the proposed consultation. Ensuring representations are duly made will be key to ensuring your views can be taken into account.

3.8.2. Responses should be considered carefully to ensure they raise legitimate issues that can be addressed by the RLDP and the Planning system. Information should be provided in a clear and accessible format and take account of any guidance forms produced by the Council to assist in making representations.

3.8.3. The consultation timescales cannot be extended to take account of meeting cycles of community groups. At the statutory stages the Council does not have the flexibility to change the periods of consultation from that prescribed in the Regulations/detailed in the CIS.

3.8.4. Where consultation bodies identify gaps in the evidence base or information provided they should seek to support the Council in improving the evidence base in the interests of achieving a 'sound' RLDP.

3.8.5. It is also important that you notify the Strategic Planning Team should your contact details change during the RLDP process for officers to keep you fully informed and updated of any progress. Regarding candidate sites, land ownership changes may also occur during the process, and it is imperative that these are updated by contacting the LDP team in order to ensure progress is not delayed.

3.8.6. Finally whilst LDP matters can be emotive we request that officers are treated with respect.

### **3.9. What stakeholders can expect of the Council**

3.9.1. The Council will seek to adhere to the published timescales in the DA and make all information available on time. In this case it will seek to facilitate engagement with the right people at the right time in the preparation of the RLDP to ensure meaningful and effective consultation and efficient use of resources. Whilst the Council will do all it can to comply with the commitments set out in the DA, there may be a need to be flexible and adapt to circumstances at the time. The RLDP CIS process will facilitate early and effective community involvement. A range of methods to publicise consultation stages and provide early warning of key consultation stages and to provide community updates will be used to engage effectively throughout the process. Where comments have been invited on particular documents it will be clear how comments will be considered and stakeholders will be notified when feedback is

available. To facilitate engagement during key consultation stages an interactive web based consultation and engagement system to record representations will be put in place.

### **3.10. Consensus**

3.10.1. The CIS will seek to build consensus through meaningful engagement. In order to achieve this, it is important that participants are kept fully informed throughout the process from the outset. Effective engagement involves using various methods, setting realistic aims and facilitating an open and honest debate. However, the Council recognises that consensus may not be achieved in all situations. It is vital, therefore, that the decision making process is transparent whereby each decision made has a clear audit trail so those who may disagree are assured that their opinions have been considered and the decisions have been made in an informed and balanced manner.

### **3.11. Handling Representations and Feedback**

3.11.1. The Council will seek that feedback is provided online as soon as possible on the outcome of engagement and consultation throughout the RLDP process. It is proposed that a new consultation software will be in place within which to submit consultation responses. Representations that are received within the appropriate timescales will be handled during each stage of plan preparation in the following manner:

- Representation is logged and given a representation number;
- Confirmation is sent to a representor of receipt of the representation with details of next steps in the process;
- All valid representations are considered, responses are formulated; and A report of consultation will be prepared which will be published at an appropriate time containing a schedule of representations and the Councils response to those together with any proposed actions necessary as a result of the representation.

### **3.12. Late Representations**

3.12.1. The RLDP process is subject to both statutory and non-statutory consultation/involvement periods, which have defined periods for submissions. For responses to be 'duly made' and thus considered, they are required by the specified deadline of these consultation periods. Any comments/representations submitted after the deadline dates will not be considered 'duly made' for the purposes of the RLDP Examination. This is to ensure the process is fair and equitable for all those parties involved in the process.

### **3.13. Council Decision Making process and Local elected Member involvement**

3.13.1. Prior to statutory public consultation stages key decisions on RLDP documents will be made by Full Council following presentation if appropriate to Cabinet with meetings taking place every four weeks.

### **3.14. Welsh Language and Bilingual Engagement**

3.14.1. The Welsh Language Standards place a legal duty on Councils to make it easier for people to use services through the medium of Welsh. The Council has published a 5 year strategy for the Welsh language and the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards will be maintained at each stage of the Replacement LDP. Bilingual engagement will be carried out in the following ways:

- We welcome correspondence in both Welsh and English. Where correspondence is received in Welsh and a reply is necessary, this will be sent in Welsh;
- All consultation letters, comments forms, public notices (including site notices) and newsletters will be bilingual;
- Any pages on the Replacement Local Development Plan website and social media posts published on twitter will be bilingual;
- Any public meetings will be conducted bilingually where a request has been made ahead of time. Prior notification is required in order to provide a translation service; and
- The Replacement LDP once adopted will be available in both Welsh and English Format.

3.14.2. The RLDP will be subject of an integrated Sustainability Appraisal which will include an impact of the plan on the Welsh Language as part of this.

### **3.15. Key Stages of RLDP and opportunities for Engagement**

3.15.1. The LDP Regulations set out the legal requirements for participation and public consultation in Replacement Plan preparation. The detailed timetable for community engagement and the potential engagement methods for the key stages in the LDP preparation process are highlighted in **Appendix 4**. The list itself is not exhaustive and could require adaptation to ensure the community and stakeholders are appropriately involved at each stage. The section below provides a summary of the key stages and when stakeholders can become involved. Information will be constantly updated on the RLDP webpages and notification of consultations emailed to stakeholders registered on the LDP database.

<b>Table 2 – Summary of Stage and Opportunities for Engagement</b>		
<b>Stage of RLDP Preparation</b>		<b>How can I get involved</b>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>Delivery Agreement (Reg 9)</b></p> <p>The DA will act as the project management tool to guide the preparation of the RLDP. It includes the timetable for its preparation and how and when stakeholders can be involved in the process.</p>	<p>Opportunities for involvement will be as part of the public consultation on the Draft DA in <b>March/April 2023</b>.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>Pre-Deposit Participation (Reg 14)</b></p> <p>To inform the preparation of the plan the Council will need to prepare a comprehensive evidence base to understand the key environment, economic and social issues that exist in Swansea. The Council will prepare a SA Scoping Report which will be consulted on with statutory consultation bodies.</p> <p>A key part of the initial evidence base is to invite developers and landowners to submit candidate sites for potential inclusion in the plan</p> <p>To inform the preparation of a Preferred Strategy a vision, set of objectives and strategic growth options to guide the plan will need to be prepared. Informal engagement with key stakeholders in developing the Vision and Objectives and Options will be undertaken</p> <p><b>This will provide an early opportunity for dialogue ahead of the Preferred Strategy being prepared</b></p>	<p><b>Opportunities for Involvement will be:</b></p> <p>Engagement of statutory consultation bodies in SA Scoping Report to be consulted with statutory consultation bodies in <b>August 2023</b></p> <p>Call for Candidate Sites from all stakeholders <b>Aug-October 2023</b>.</p> <p>Informal Engagement on Draft Vision and Objectives and Strategic Options during in <b>September 2023 to January 2024</b></p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Pre-Deposit Consultation (Reg 15-16)</b></p> <p>This stage will include statutory consultation on the Preferred Strategy and strategic locations for new development and accompanying ISA</p>	<p><b>Opportunities for Involvement will be:</b></p> <p>Public Consultation on the Preferred Strategy and ISA Report in <b>July/August 2024</b></p>

	<p>Report (statutory 6-week period). The Preferred Strategy will provide the strategic framework for more detailed policies, proposals and allocations that will be included in the Deposit RLDP.</p> <p>Consultation on Preferred Strategy, Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report – 8 weeks</p>	
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Deposit Participation/Consultation (Reg 17)</b></p> <p>This stage includes statutory 6-week public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the Deposit Plan, ISA Report, HRA and Initial Consultation Report. The deposit plan will set out the strategy, policies and site allocations, based on the key issues, objectives and supporting evidence base for the plan. The deposit plan will shape and guide development proposals to sustainable locations to deliver the scale and type of growth necessary for local community well-being over the plan period.</p> <p>Any representations received as a result of the consultation exercise will be made available for public inspection and on the Council’s website.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities for Involvement will be:</b></p> <p>Public Consultation on the Preferred Strategy and ISA Report in <b>June/July 2025</b></p>

Indicative Stage		From	To
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Submission (Reg 22)</b> At this stage the Council is required to submit the Deposit Plan, ISA Report, Community Involvement Scheme, copies of all representations received, key supporting evidence and consultation report to the WG.</p> <p>An independent inspector will be appointed to examine the Deposit Replacement Plan to determine whether the plan is sound.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities for Involvement will be:</b></p> <p>Submission of RLDP and all other supporting documents will take place in <b>December 2025</b>. A Programme Officer will be appointed to manage the Examination process. They will be the first point of contact to stakeholders who submitted representations at Deposit stage. Details of the Examination will be published on the Council's Examination webpage. The preparation for the Examination will be between <b>January/February 2026</b>.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Examination (Reg 23)</b></p> <p>The Independent Inspector from Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW) will conduct the examination of the RLDP over a series of hearing sessions which will be preceded by a Pre Hearing Meeting.</p> <p>The aim of the examination will be to ensure that the Replacement Plan is at a stage where it is sound and can be safely adopted. Any changes proposed by the Inspector must therefore be assessed as being sound.</p>	<p><b>Opportunities for Involvement will be:</b></p> <p>There will be an opportunity for those who made 'duly made' representations at Deposit stage to be heard by the Inspector. However, necessary input will be considered and decided by the Inspector. Arrangements for public participation in the examination process will be advertised by the Programme Officer nearer the time. The examination sessions will run between <b>March to April 2026</b>.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Publication of Inspectors Report (Reg 24)</b></p> <p>Once the Inspector is satisfied that no further evidence needs to be tested and has prepared a report of their findings together with any binding changes to the RLDP, they will submit their report to the Council. The report will be binding on the Council. Following a fact check the Council will publish the report.</p>	<p>The Council will publish the Inspector's Report in <b>August 2026</b>. It will be uploaded to the Councils website and available in hard copy at the main Council offices for members of the public to view.</p>	

<b>8</b>	<b>Adoption (Reg 25)</b> The Council is required to adopt the Replacement LDP incorporating the Inspectors recommendations within 8 weeks. The replacement LDP will become operative on the date is adopted and final publication of the Replacement Plan should follow as soon as possible (after the expiry of the six week legal challenge period)	The Council will adopt the RLDP at a full Council meeting in <b>September 2026</b> . Full details of the meeting will be published on the Councils website.
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### 3.16. Availability of Documents

3.16.1. All RLDP documents will be made available to view and download on dedicated Replacement LDP webpages. In addition, in accordance with the relevant LDP Regulations all relevant documents will be made available for public inspection at the principal office during normal office hours:

Civic Centre

Oystermouth Rd

Maritime Quarter

Swansea

3.16.2. During the statutory public consultation stages (Preferred Strategy and Deposit Plan consultation) as identified in **Table 2** above hard copies of the main consultation documents will be placed in all the 17 libraries for public inspection. Currently the public library venues are: Bonymaen, Brynhyfred, Central, Clydach, Fforestfach, Gorseinon, Gowerton, Killay, Llansamlet, Morriston, Oystermouth, Penlan, Pennard, Pontarddulais, Sketty, St Thomas and Townhill.

### 3.17. The LDP Database/Consultation Software

3.17.1. The Council proposes to implement a new consultation software system to support the RLDP. Stakeholders will be able to register their details online to be kept on a consultation database to be notified as part of future consultations on the RLDP. Stakeholders can then submit comments at appropriate consultation stages online via this system. Further details will be published on the RLDP webpages as this becomes available.

3.17.2. In the meantime, the Council will set up a manual consultation database to be used to communicate key updates to stakeholders in the development of the RLDP including key consultations. The database will be managed in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). Any parties interested in joining the new consultation database to be kept informed about the RLDP process must give their consent to be added to the database by filling out the contact form online on the Council's Replacement LDP website. A Privacy Notice setting out how the council will use consultees' information will also be available online alongside the online form. Accordingly, the form will need to be completed to confirm your acceptance for your details to be held for the purposes of RLDP consultation notification and will need to be submitted to [ldp@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@swansea.gov.uk). Details will be available on the RLDP webpages in due course and stakeholders can register their interest anytime during the process.

3.17.3. Anyone who makes representations at any of the stages of RLDP will be deemed to have given their consent and will be added to the stakeholder database in order to administer their comments and for them to be adequately informed of further opportunities to participate at a later date in the process. However if you wish your details to be removed this can be done via emailing the team via the above email address. Once the consultation software is in place you will be able to unsubscribe and your details will be removed for future consultations.

### **3.18. Contact Details**

Further information on the LDP process can be gained by visiting the Councils website at:

[Placemaking and strategic planning - Swansea](#)

Or for those unable to access the Councils website, further information can be gained by contacting the following:

Email: [ldp@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:ldp@swansea.gov.uk)

Placemaking and Strategic Planning  
Swansea Council  
Civic Centre  
Oystermouth Road  
Maritime Quarter  
Swansea  
SA1 3SN

Comments are welcome in Welsh and English



	2023												2024												2025												2026												2028
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	O
Prepare Appropriate Assessment (if required) of Deposit Plan																																																	
Political Reporting - Reporting of Deposit LDP, ISA (SEA) and HRA Reports to Full Council																																																	
<b>Key Stage 4: Deposit Plan Participation /Consultation (Regs 17)</b>																																																	
Consultation on draft Deposit SDP, ISA (SEA) and HRA Assessment and Consideration of the representations received in respect of the draft Deposit SDP, ISA (SEA) and HRA Reports																																																	
Political Reporting - Council approve submission of Deposit LDP to WG																																																	
<b>Key Stage 5 - Submission (Reg 22)</b>																																																	
Submission of RLDP, ISA and Consultation Report to WG																																																	
<b>Key Stage 6 - Examination (Reg 23)</b>																																																	
Examination including Pre-Hearing Meeting																																																	
<b>Key Stage 7 - Inspectors Report (Reg 24)</b>																																																	
Inspectors Report Preparation																																																	
Publication of Inspector's Report																																																	
<b>Key Stage 8 - Adoption (Reg 2)</b>																																																	
Adoption of LDP by Full Council (Reg 35)																																																	
<b>Key Stage 9 - Monitoring and Review (Reg 37)</b>																																																	
Submit first LDP Annual Monitoring Report																																																	

<b>Key</b>	
Preparation	
Political Reporting to Full Council	
Public Consultation	
Submission to WG	

## **Description of Key Stages and Dates:**

### **Stage 1: Delivery Agreement**

**Key Dates:** *Consultation on Draft DA (March to April 23), Welsh Government Approval (July 23)*

The DA will act as the project management tool to guide the preparation of the RLDP. It will include the timetable for its preparation and the Community Involvement Scheme, setting out how and when stakeholders will be involved in the process. The DA will be subject to consultation with specific and general consultation bodies as appropriate and members of the public in order to seek views on its contents. The DA will need to be approved by Council and agreed by Welsh Government. Following this approval, the RLDP can formally commence.

### **Stage 2: Pre-Deposit Participation**

**Key Dates:**, *Call for Candidate Sites (Aug-Oct 23), Consultation on Draft Scoping Report (Aug 23), Informal engagement in the generation of Draft Vision and Objectives and Strategic Options (Sep 23-January 24),*

Following approval of the DA, the first formal stage will include the request for nominations for Candidate Sites to be submitted for consideration to be included in the Replacement LDP. This will be widely advertised and will take place over a 12-week period. To ensure potential sites are appropriately considered, they must be submitted during the Call for Sites period alongside the required supporting evidence. **However, this is not a commitment that all sites will be taken forward in the RLDP.** Following the close of the Call for Sites consultation, the Council will prepare a Candidate Sites Register which must be published on the Council's website and should be available as part of the RLDP Preferred Strategy consultation. The Council will undertake an initial Stage 1 Assessment of all submitted sites together with early detailed assessment work as appropriate.

The Council will prepare a Draft Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report which will set the context, establish the baseline and set out the Draft SA/SEA objectives which will be used to assess the emerging RLDP. Consultation with the key statutory bodies will be undertaken.

During this stage extensive work will be undertaken to gather information and evidence to understand the context and issues to be addressed in the RLDP. This will include through stakeholder engagement, the generation of a vision and objectives for the LDP and the development of strategic options and alternatives. This will inform the preparation of a Preferred Strategy for the RLDP and will set out the broad approach to the scale and location of growth that ensures development is planned in a sustainable manner. It will provide the strategic framework for more detailed policies, proposals and allocations that will be included in the Deposit RLDP.

The Preferred Strategy will be informed by required sustainability assessments to be included and published as part of the Initial ISA Report.

### **Stage 3: Pre-Deposit Consultation**

**Key Dates:** *Consultation on Deposit RLDP (Jul-Aug 24)*

This stage includes statutory 8-week public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the RLDP Preferred Strategy and accompanying ISA Report.

Following the close of the consultation period, the Council will assess responses received, decide upon changes required to the Preferred Strategy and prepare an Initial Consultation Report.

Further detailed assessment work will be undertaken on previously submitted Candidate Sites and assessment work will be undertaken on any new sites submitted during the Preferred Strategy consultation stage.

The Council will begin the process of preparing the Deposit LDP. The deposit plan will set out the strategy, policies and site allocations, based on the key issues, objectives and supporting evidence base for the plan. The deposit plan will shape and guide development proposals to sustainable locations to deliver the scale and type of growth necessary for local community well-being over the plan period. The plan will demonstrate development is financially viable, deliverable over a specified timeline and is supported by funded infrastructure. The ISA framework will be used to assess and mitigate the effects of the Deposit Plan and this assessment process will be set out in the Initial SA Report (the Environment Report). The SA report will record the results of assessing any revised or new options resulting from public consultation or other changes and the statutory environmental consultation bodies will be notified and given the opportunity to comment. The supporting SA report will be updated to reflect the assessment of the Deposit Plan.

### **Stage 4: Deposit Plan Consultation**

**Key Dates:** *Consultation on Deposit RLDP (Jun-Jul 25)*

This stage includes a statutory 6-week public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the RLDP Deposit Plan, accompanying an ISA Report, a HRA Report and an Initial Consultation Report.

Following the close of the consultation period, the Council will analyse and record representations received and prepare the Council response to the representations and consider changes (Focussed Changes are to be the exception). The Council will make the representations available for public Inspection. The Council will finalise the consultation report and prepare statements of common ground with key/strategic objections.

A programme officer will be appointed, and the Council will liaise with Planning and Environment Decisions Wales to submit definitive timings for the remaining stages. Stakeholders will be kept up to date of timescales going forward.

Finally, the Deposit LDP, SA Report and associated documents will be presented to Council for approval for submission to the Welsh Government.

### **Stage 5: Submission**

**Key Dates:** *Submission of Deposit LDP to WG (Dec 25)*

The Deposit LDP, SA Report, final consultation report and all supporting evidence will be submitted to the Welsh Government and Planning and Environment Decisions Wales for Examination by an Independent Planning Inspector.

The Council will follow published guidance on preparation/procedures for submission and examination. Details of the Examination will be advertised on the Council's Examination website and will be notified to representors and interested parties contained on the RLDP database. There will be an opportunity for those who made 'duly made' representations at Deposit to be heard by the Inspector. The Inspectors role is to examine the RLDP in its entirety and test its soundness, to consider all relevant evidence and prepare recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations in the form of the Inspectors Report.

### **Stage 6: Independent Examination**

**Key Dates:** *Pre-Hearing Meeting (if required) (Jan/Feb 26), Examination (Mar/Apr 26)*

An independent inspector from PEDW will conduct the examination of the RLDP. This will be done over a series of hearing sessions on different topic areas. All documentation associated with the Examination will be made available on the RLDP website. Information will be sent to interested parties and the general public in addition to those involved in the general proceedings. The Inspector's role will be to examine the RLDP in its entirety and test its soundness. They will prepare recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations in the form of an Inspector's Report.

At the Examination stage, the ISA process will be used to ensure any changes made to the Deposit Plan (Focussed Changes, Matters Arising Changes during examination or those required by the Inspector appropriately assessed to ensure they are sustainable.

### **Stage 7: Receipt and Publication of Inspectors Report**

**Key Indicative Dates:** *Receipt and Publication of Inspectors Report (Aug 26)*

The Inspector will submit their final report to the Council which will be binding. Prior to the report being published, the Council will undertake a fact check exercise within two weeks of receiving the Inspector's Report. Once this has been completed and the Inspector has responded to any points raised, the final report will be submitted to the Council and the Welsh Governments Planning Directorate. The examination will

formally close upon delivery of the Inspectors Report to the LPA. The Council will publish the Inspector's Report prior to the date it is adopted during August 2025

### **Stage 8: Adoption**

**Key Indicative Dates:** *Council adopts LDP (Sep 26)*

Within 8 weeks of receipt of the Inspector's Report, if the plan is regarded as sound, the Council must adopt the LDP. Following adoption, the Council will publicise an adoption statement in accordance with the regulations, publicise widely that the LDP has been adopted and where it can be inspected. The adoption will set out the date of adoption and the period for High Court challenge. The LDP becomes operative on the adoption date.

### **Stage 9: Monitoring and Review**

**Key Indicative Dates:** *Submit first LDP Annual Monitoring Report (Oct 28)*

The Council will undertake annual Monitoring of the RLDP to identify the successful implementation of policies and areas where change is necessary. It will also monitor significant effects of the RLDP against sustainability objectives. The first AMR will be produced in October 2028 which will allow for a full year of monitoring (1<sup>st</sup> April – 31<sup>st</sup> March) during the financial year following adoption.

A statutory review of the RLDP will need to be commenced at the latest 4 years following adoption by September 2030.



## Appendix 2: Risk Assessment

	RISK	IMPACT	MITIGATION
<b>1</b>	Loss/change of staff leading to inadequate in-house expertise and/or increasing individual workload	Loss of capacity to complete stages of the LDP process on schedule. Inability to resource various tasks therefore compromising their quality, or in the worst case not being able to undertake or complete the task	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain full complement of Strategic Planning Team, and supplement through redeployment/secondment when necessary</li> <li>• Ensure LDP is given the highest priority when managing workload</li> <li>• Use external consultants</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	Inadequate financial resources	Inability to fund various tasks which require external expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build in flexibility for unforeseen costs</li> <li>• Allow LDP budget to be rolled forward annually if underspend occurs</li> <li>• Ensure the cost of Independent Examination &amp; Inspector's Report is included in the Council's medium term financial planning</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	New legislation with policy implications & poor dissemination of this information	Timetable slippage due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need to review/revise evidence base and policies.</li> <li>• Late redrafting of Policies/Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor emerging legislation and guidance closely to ensure the earliest possible response in LDP preparation to new policies/tasks, etc</li> <li>• Review consultation procedures with WG and other bodies to ensure Strategic Planning Team are directly consulted</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	Significant late objections or information from key stakeholders	Timetable slippage due to:  Policies/Plan need to be redrafted to incorporate the additional information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve liaison procedures with key stakeholders and align project timetables wherever possible</li> <li>• Identify at an early stage any difficulty (with regards to time) in providing a response</li> <li>• Allow flexibility within the timetable for the late submission of information</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	Difficulty in acquiring necessary information/expertise to inform the LDP	LDP fails the test of soundness due to insufficient evidence, or timetable slips due to time or resources being diverted to acquire information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard the necessary resources in terms of time and finance to secure the required information and build in sufficient flexibility within the timetable to do this</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	External delays (Planning Inspectorate, consultee responses, printers, translators)	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly specify response deadlines and establish reminder protocols</li> <li>Link deadlines to Cabinet/Council report preparation cycles</li> <li>Keep WG informed</li> <li>Build flexibility in timetable around Local Government elections</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	Legal Challenge	Adopted LDP quashed, and additional workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continually check with Legal Services that all relevant Regulations, Acts and Guidance are being complied with</li> <li>Continue Regional work to share best practice with other LPAs</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	Unrealistic reporting cycles and Political Issues more widely, including the Council Elections	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that special meetings can be called to progress LDP issues</li> <li>Establish Advisory Group of Members to deal with LDP delivery</li> <li>Early member training after elections</li> </ul>
<b>9</b>	Timetable proves too ambitious due to greater than anticipated workload relating to Council duties and CJC requirements, including production of SDP, plus potential delayed evidence/evidence emerging at times unsynchronised to the DA.	Timetable slippage  Resource Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider additional resources</li> <li>Continue close liaison with Welsh Government and CJC</li> <li>Ensure sufficient resources are available and corporate support of SDP process and timetable from outset aligned to RLDP preparation.</li> <li>Plan Evidence Needs and Undertake/ Commission Evidence Gathering well in Advance</li> <li>Prepare the Plan to be adaptable and responsive/flexible to change where possible</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	Delays caused by Welsh translation	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider additional resources</li> <li>Work closely with relevant departments</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	Lack of consensus throughout the organisation and/ or lack of support from officers/other departments in production of the evidence base	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure close liaison with, and early involvement of key Members and Officers</li> </ul>

<b>12</b>	Early Review of RLDP or RLDP halted before adoption due to requirement to align with a Strategic Development Plan	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure involvement in progress of regional work. Continued liaison with Welsh Government.</li> </ul>
<b>13</b>	Impending 'drop dead date' of the current LDP	Policy implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure Replacement LDP is adopted before or soon after 'drop dead date'</li> <li>• Develop mitigation strategies for a period without a plan</li> <li>• Negotiate with WG to explore amending legislation regarding drop dead date.</li> </ul>
<b>14</b>	Delay in major application coming forward until RLDP is adopted	Policy implications (e.g. housing/employment delivery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure RLDP is adopted as soon as possible to minimise implications associated with delay of major applications</li> </ul>
<b>15</b>	ISA/HRA implications on plan strategy	Timetable slippage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure process is fully integrated with LDP preparation</li> </ul>

## Appendix 3: List of Specific and General Consultation Bodies

### Specific Consultation Bodies as defined in LDP Regulation 2 (including UK Government Departments):

The Council will consult the following specific consultation bodies at all stages in the preparation of the RLDP

#### Specific Consultation Bodies

##### **Government Bodies**

Cadw  
Home Office  
Public Health Wales  
Secretary of State for Wales  
Swansea Bay Local Health Board  
Natural Resources Wales  
WAG

Gowerton Community Council  
Grovesend and Waunfron Community Council  
Ilston Community Council  
Killay Community Council  
Llangennith, Llanmadoc & Cheriton Community Council  
Llangyfelach Community Council  
Llanrhidian Higher Community Council

##### **Adjoining LAs**

Brecon Beacons National Park  
Carmarthenshire County Council  
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Pembrokeshire  
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Llanrhidian Lower Community Council  
Llwchwr Community Council  
Mawr Community Council  
Mumbles Community Council  
Penllergaer Community Council  
Pennard Community Council  
Penrice Community Council  
Pontarddulais Town Council  
Pontlliw & Tircoed Community Council

##### **Community and Town Councils (Swansea)**

Bishopston Community Council  
Clydach Community Council  
Gorseinon Town Council

Port Eynon Community Council  
Reynoldston Community Council

Rhossili Community Council  
Three Crosses Community Council  
Upper Killay Community Council

Dyffryn Clydach Community Council  
Pontardawe Town Council

**Community and Town Councils  
(within other Counties)**

Carmarthenshire:  
Ammanford Town Council  
Betws Community Council  
Llanedi Community Council  
Llanelli Rural Council  
Neath Port Talbot:  
Cilybebyll Community Council  
Coedffranc Community Council

**Infrastructure Providers and  
Electronic Communications**

Communication Providers  
Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water  
Electricity and Gas Undertakers  
Glamorgan-Gwent  
Archaeological Trust  
National Grid  
Network Rail  
Sewerage and Water undertakers  
The Coal Authority

**General Consultation Bodies**

The Council will consult with the following general consultation bodies where considered appropriate in accordance with the Delivery Agreement. This is not exhaustive and may be added to as appropriate

**Business**

British Chambers of Commerce  
Business Connect  
Business in the Community  
Business in the Community Wales  
Confederation of British Industry Wales  
Federation of Small Businesses

South Wales Chamber of Commerce  
Swansea Bay City Deal  
Swansea Bay Futures Limited  
Swansea BID  
Swansea Bay Business Club  
The British Retail Consortium  
West Wales Chamber of Commerce

West Wales Exporters  
Association

### **Children, Young People and Families**

Barnado's Cymru

Bays Project

Children in Wales

Children's Commissioner for  
Wales

Eastside Family Support Project

End Child Poverty Network  
Cymru

EYST

Faith in Families

Friends of the Young Disabled

Info-Nation

Llangennith Youth Club

NCT Swansea

SWANSEA YMCA

Talking Hands Youth Club

The Welsh Association of Youth  
Clubs

Ty Fforest Youth Club

Young Enterprise Wales

### **Community First Areas**

Bonymean Community First  
Area

Castle Community First Area

Clase/Caemawr Community  
First Area

Morryston Community First Area

Penlan Community First Area

Port Tennant Community First  
Area

Sketty Community First Area

Townhill Communities First  
Area

### **Community Societies and Activities**

Cwmpas

Dunvant Male Choir

Gower Riding Club

Gower Society

### **Consultants**

Asbri Planning

AP Planing and Architecture

Boyer Planning

Capita Symonds Planning  
Team Cwmbran

CDN Planning

CT Planning

Geddes Consulting

Hammerson Plc

Jason Evans Planning

Meirion Howells Project  
Management

Powell Dobson Urbanists

RPS Group

Tetlow King Planning

### **Culture**

The Theatres Trust

## **Development Trust and Partnership Details**

Blaenymaes, Portmead & Penplas Development Trust

Crofty, Llanmorlais, Penclawdd Development Group

Cwmni Clydach Development Trust

Grenfell Park, St. Thomas & Port Tennant Partnership

Llanrhidian Hall Trust & N, Gower Regeneration Initiative

Mawr Development Trust

Mumbles Development Trust

Pontarddulais Partnership

## **Education**

Swansea College

Swansea Environmental Education Forum

Swansea University

Swansea University Students Union

University of Wales Trinity St David (Swansea Metropolitan University)

## **Energy**

British Gas

British Wind Energy Association

Composite Energy

E.ON

Ecotricity

EDF Energy

Energy Savings Trust Wales

N Power

RenewableUK Cymru

Swalec

United Utilities

Wales & West Utilities

## **Electronic Communications**

BT Group Plc

Hutchison 3G UK Ltd

Mobile Operators Association

Mobile UK

O2UK

Virgin Media

Vodafone

## **Employment and Training**

Job Centre Plus Swansea

One Voice Wales

Remploy (Interwork)

Venture Wales Swansea

## **Environmental Groups and National / Regional Level**

Bat Conservation Trust

British Geological Survey

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

Coed Cadw/The Woodland Trust

Cylch

Friends of the Earth Cymru

Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust  
Greenpeace  
Groundwork Cymru  
National Trust Wales  
Wales Environment Link  
Welsh Historic Gardens Trust  
Woodland Trust  
World Wildlife Fund Cymru

### **Estates**

British Gas Properties  
British Rail Property Board  
Coal Pension Properties Ltd  
Defence Estates  
Penrice Estate  
Post Office Property Holdings  
Somerset Trust

### **Emergency Services**

Coast Guard  
Designing Out Crime Unit  
South Wales Fire and Rescue Service  
South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner  
South Wales Police Authority  
Welsh Ambulance Service (Central & West Region)

### **Gender and Sexual Orientation**

BAWSO

Chwarae Teg  
Gay Ammanford  
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Cymru Helpline  
Lliw Valley Women's Aid  
Swansea University LGBT  
Swansea University Women's Society  
Swansea Women's Centre  
Wales Assembly of Women  
Wales Trade Union Congress (TUC) LGBT Committee  
Women 4 Resources  
Wales Women's National Coalition  
Woman's National Commission  
Womenzone

### **Governmental Bodies**

Carbon Trust  
Crown Estates Office  
Design Commission for Wales  
Forestry Commission Wales  
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

### **Government Departments and Agencies**

Department for Business Enterprise & Regulatory Reform  
Department for Enterprise, Innovation & Networks  
Department for Transport



Department for Business,  
Energy & Industrial Strategy  
Home Office  
Ministry of Defence  
Valuation Office Agency  
Welsh Local Government  
Association

## **Health & Ability**

British Red Cross  
Care And Repair (Swansea)  
Deaf Association Wales  
Disability Initiative  
Disability Wales  
MENCAP  
Public Health Wales  
RNIB Cymru  
Royal National Institute for the  
Blind  
Sense Cymru  
SNAP - Special Needs Advisory  
Project  
Spinal Injuries Association  
St. Johns Ambulance  
Swansea Access for Everyone  
Swansea Access For Everyone  
(SAFE)  
Swansea Community Health  
Council  
Swansea Centre for Deaf  
People  
Swansea Local Health Board  
Swansea Mental Health Forum

Swansea Mind  
Swansea Volunteer Service  
Wales Council for Deaf People  
Wales Council of the Blind

## **Housing & Developers**

ADAPT  
Barratt Homes  
Bellway  
Caredig  
Coastal Housing  
Edenstone  
Enzo Homes  
Federation of Master Builders  
Cymru  
First Choice  
Grŵp Gwalia Cyf  
Hale Construction  
Home Builders Federation  
Hygrove Homes  
Jehu  
Llanmoor Homes  
Morganstone  
Myty Homes  
Persimmon Homes West Wales  
Pobl Group  
St Modwen  
Tai Esgyn  
Taylor Wimpey  
Valleys to Coast Housing  
Welsh Construction Federation  
Alliance

## **Institutes and Societies**

Association for Industrial  
Archaeology

Chartered Institute of Civil  
Engineers Wales

Chartered Institute of Housing  
Cymru

Chartered Institution of Wastes  
Management Cymru

Institute of Directors Wales

Institution of Civil Engineers  
Wales Cymru

Royal Institution of Chartered  
Surveyors

Royal Society of Architects in  
Wales

Royal Town Planning Institute  
Cymru

The Gower Society

Local Community, Conservation and  
Amenity Groups"

Glamorgan Badger Group

Glamorgan Biodiversity  
Advisory Group

Glamorgan Bird Club

Glamorgan-Gwent  
Archaeological Trust

Gower Ornithological Society

Penllergare Trust

Swansea Environmental Forum

## **Members of Parliament**

MP for Gower – Tonia  
Antoniazzi

MP for Swansea East – Carolyn  
Harris

MP Swansea West – Geraint  
Davies

## **Minerals and Aggregates**

British Aggregates Association

Mineral Products Association

## **National Assembly Members**

AM for Gower – Rebecca Evans

AM for Swansea East – Mike  
Hedges

AM for Swansea West – Julie  
James

## **Older Persons**

Age Cymru Swansea Bay

National Old Age Pensioners  
Association of Wales (now  
Active Wales)

Older Persons' Commissioner  
for Wales

## **Political Groups**

County Labour Party in  
Swansea

Plaid Cymru Group

Swansea & Gower Liberal  
Democrats

Swansea and Gower Green  
Party

The Conservative Office

## **Racial and Ethnic**

African Community Centre  
All Wales Ethnic Minority Association  
BAWSO Women's Aid Swansea  
Black Environment Network (BEN)  
Black Ethnic Women Step Out (BAWSO)  
Equality and Human Rights Commission Wales  
Ethnic Minority Foundation  
Ethnic Youth Support Team (EYST)  
Filipino Welfare Association  
Gypsies and Travellers Wales  
Minority Ethnic Women's Network  
Minority Ethnic Women's Network Swansea  
National Travellers Action Group (now The Traveller Movement)  
Race Council Cymru  
Race Equality First  
Swansea African Caribbean Society  
Swansea Bay Racial Equality Council  
Swansea Chinese Community Co-op Centre  
Swansea Interfaith Forum  
Swansea Bay Asylum Seekers Support Group

The Indian Society of South West Wales

Traveller Law Reform Project

Welsh Refugee Council

## **Regional Groups**

South Wales Regional Aggregates Working Party  
South West Wales Economic Forum  
South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium

## **Religion and Belief**

Barham Centre  
Hindu Council UK  
Kafel Centre (Mosque Directory)  
Muslim Council of Wales  
Presbyterian Church of Wales  
Sikh Society (Punjabi Society)  
Swansea Interfaith Forum  
Swansea Quakers  
The Associating Evangelical Churches of Wales  
The Baptist Union of Wales  
The Buddhist Society  
The Church of Wales  
The Elim Pentecostal Church  
The Evangelical Movement of Wales  
The Methodist Church in Wales  
The Religious Society of Friends

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Menevia  
The Wales Orthodox Mission  
Union of Welsh Independents

### **Rural**

Country Land and Business Association (Wales)  
Farmers Union of Wales  
Farming and Rural Conservation Agency  
National Farmers Union for Wales

Civil Aviation Authority  
Confederation of Passenger Transport Wales  
First Great Western  
Logistics UK (formerly Freight Transport Association)  
South Wales Trunk Road Agency  
Sustrans Cymru  
Swansea Canal Society  
The General Aviation Awareness Council  
Veolia Transport - Wales

### **Sport and Recreation**

Fields in Trust Cymru  
Loughor Boating Club  
Mawr Walking Club (Lliw)  
Mumbles Yacht Club  
Play Wales  
Pontarddulais Walking Club  
Ramblers Association Wales  
Sport Wales  
Sports Council for Wales

### **Tourism**

British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers & Attractions  
British Holiday Homes Parks Association  
Camping and Caravanning Club  
Mumbles Tourist Association  
The Caravan Club  
Tourism Swansea Bay Ltd  
Visit Wales

### **Sustainability**

Sustainable Development Commission, Wales  
Sustainable Wales

### **Voluntary**

AIDS Trust Cymru  
Anti-Poverty Network Cymru  
Barnados Cymru  
British Red Cross South West Wales  
Citizen's Advice Bureau  
Mencap

### **Transport**

Arriva Trains Wales

Oxfam Cymru  
Planning Aid Wales  
Princess Royal Trust for Carers  
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds  
Samaritans  
Save the Children  
Shelter Cymru  
St John Ambulance  
Stonewall Cymru  
Swansea Council for Voluntary Service  
Swansea Mind  
Swansea YMCA  
Terrance Higgins Trust Swansea  
The Civic Trust for Wales  
The Coalfield Regeneration Trust  
The Salvation Army  
Wales Council for Voluntary Action  
Welsh Centre for Action on Dependency and Addiction  
West Glamorgan Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse

## **Waste**

Environmental Services Association  
Waste Awareness Wales

## **Water Based Organisations"**

Associated British Ports Swansea  
British Marine Federation  
British Waterways  
Canal and Rivers Trust  
Centre for Ecology and Hydrology  
Swansea Bay Port Health Authority  
Swansea Community Boat Trust  
The British Ports Association  
Wales Coastal and Maritime Partnership

## **Welsh Culture and Heritage**

Cymdeithas yr Iaith  
Menter Abertawe  
Merched y Wawr  
Welsh Language Board  
Welsh Language Commissioner

## Appendix 4: Community Involvement Scheme

### Stage 1 Delivery Agreement (LDP Reg 9) (Definitive)

Table 2 – Community Involvement Scheme						
WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>The DA is the project management tool which sets out the agreed timetable and community involvement scheme for the RLDP</b></p> <p>DA is drafted with input from targeted stakeholders and issued for public consultation</p> <p>Following consideration of comments, the final DA will be submitted to Welsh Government following Council Approval</p> <p>Welsh Government approves DA and formal commencement of RLDP begins</p>	<p>Engagement from WG on timescale and PEDW on suitability of Examination Dates</p> <p>Public consultation to set out the timetable and allow input on the proposed Involvement Scheme</p>	<p>4 weeks public consultation March to April 2023</p> <p>Full Council approve Final DA July 2023 and submit to WG July 2023</p> <p>WG to respond within 4 weeks</p> <p>Anticipated commencement of RLDP July 2023 following WG approval</p>	<p><b>Drafting</b> – Internal stakeholders, Welsh Government, Full Council</p> <p><b>Public Consultation</b>- All Stakeholders</p> <p>Planning and Environment Decision Wales/WG</p> <p>Elected Members</p>	<p>Drafting – Emails/Meetings, Report to Full Council</p> <p>Public Consultation advertised via:</p> <p>Emails Website Press and Social Media Drop-in sessions at Council Offices</p> <p>Consultation Documents available on: RLDP Website Hard copy of document available at Civic Centre and Guildhall</p> <p>Final DA available on: Website Hard copy at Civic Centre and Guildhall</p>	<p>Full Council Agenda and Minutes will record the political engagement processes both for the draft and final DA.</p> <p>The DA will include a report of consultation setting out comments received, a Council response to the comments and any amendments to the DA necessary</p>	<p>Ongoing internal work evaluating and updating the SA Framework and baseline evidence used to inform the existing LDP.</p> <p>Ongoing consideration of adopting an integrated SA with relevant internal and external stakeholders</p>

## Stage 2 Pre-Deposit Participation (LDP Regulation 14) (Definitive Stage)

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>To understand the context and issues to be addressed in the RLDP, to collect evidence and invite submissions of sites for consideration and to develop a vision and objectives to guide the preparation of the RLDP.</b></p> <p><b>Review and update evidence base</b></p> <p><b>Call for Candidate Sites</b></p> <p><b>Engage with stakeholders to develop the key issues and form an overarching vision and objectives to guide the RLDP and the development of strategic options</b></p> <p><b>Prepare the SA Scoping Report and undertake targeted consultation with key stakeholders</b></p>	<p>To build up the evidence base of key issues that the RLDP will need to take account of.</p> <p>To receive from all stakeholders' potential sites for development or protection to be considered.</p> <p>To get consensus from key stakeholders on a vision and objectives for the RLDP which will inform the Preferred Strategy</p>	<p>Ongoing from June 2022</p> <p>The Call for Candidate Sites will be undertaken between August to October 2023</p> <p>Statutory 5-week consultation period on the SA Scoping Report around August 2023</p> <p>Engagement with key specific and general consultation bodies as considered appropriate on the development of the Vision and Objectives and Strategic Options around September 2023- January 2024.</p> <p>Ongoing informal engagement with key internal department/external bodies to inform work throughout 2023</p> <p>Full Council to approve Preferred Strategy and</p>	<p>Targeted engagement with internal departments and external bodies and neighbouring authorities in the development of the evidence base.</p> <p>Consultation with Environmental Bodies on SA Scoping Report</p> <p>The Call for Candidate Sites will be open to all stakeholders including internal departments, external bodies, developers, landowners, general public, community groups to submit sites for consideration</p> <p>Targeted engagement with internal departments and</p>	<p>Targeted engagement via: Emails Teams and face to face meetings</p> <p>SA scoping report engagement via Emails Teams Meetings as appropriate</p> <p>Call for Candidate Sites will be publicised widely on social media and the website in advance of the formal call for sites</p> <p>stage to allow parties to consider and prepare necessary evidence which will be key to ensure frontloading.</p> <p>Call for Sites Stage will be publicised using the following as appropriate: Emails Drop-in sessions with officers via Teams or face to face meetings Virtual meetings</p> <p>Public Consultation advertised via:</p>	<p>Background papers and evidence will be uploaded to RLDP webpages as they become available.</p> <p>Following the Call for Candidate Sites the Council will produce a Register of Candidate Sites which will be available on the RLDP website and in hardcopy at the Civic Centre by the time of the Preferred Strategy consultation</p> <p>Full Council Agenda and Minutes will record the political engagement processes both for the draft and final DA.</p>	<p>Ongoing internal work evaluating and updating the SA Framework and baseline evidence used to inform the existing LDP.</p> <p>Statutory Consultation on the Scoping Report</p> <p>Informal engagement with NRW re the HRA Screening Report</p>

<p><b>Prepare a draft RLDP Preferred Strategy setting out the overarching strategy and strategic policies and key strategic sites</b></p> <p><b>Prepare the Initial SA Report and Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Obtain Full Council approval for the Preferred Strategy and SA/HRA documents to go out for a statutory public consultation</b></p>		<p>supporting documents in June 2024</p>	<p>specific and general consultation bodies as considered appropriate</p> <p>Internal officers and RLDP Working Group if considered necessary</p> <p>Elected Member engagement through process</p>	<p>LDP Stakeholder Database Emails Website Press and Social Media Drop-in sessions at Council Offices</p> <p>The Council will publish a detailed Candidate Sites Submission Guidance and Methodology to explain the anticipated site analysis and selection process</p> <p>Engagement with specific and general consultation bodies via: Emails Face to face meetings/virtual meetings as appropriate</p>		
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### Stage 3 Pre-Deposit Consultation (LDP Regulation 15) (Definitive Stage)

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>Public Consultation on the: RLDP Preferred Strategy Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report HRA Screening Assessment Background Evidence and any relevant topic papers</b></p>	<p>To achieve wide input into the Draft LDP Preferred Strategy, to allow stakeholders and the general public to submit their views on the emerging strategy, key policies and strategic sites and associated documents</p>	<p>Public Consultation to be undertaken for a statutory six-week period during July to August 2024</p>	<p>Consultation with all stakeholders with an interest in the RLDP</p>	<p>Public consultation to be widely advertised: Emails to all consultees on the RLDP database Council Social media Channels and website Council Contact Centres</p> <p>Officers will hold as considered appropriate: Drop in sessions Exhibitions Engagement with Community Councils and identified key groups</p> <p>Consultation Documents and representation forms available on: RLDP Website Hard copies of Preferred Strategy available at Civic Centre and Guildhall Copy of the Preferred Strategy and representation forms where possible at all Swansea libraries</p> <p>The Council will consider the implementation of an interactive web-based</p>	<p>Representations received and officer responses to them will be reported to Elected Members.</p> <p>All representations and responses, together with any changes to the Pre-Deposit Plan will be made publicly available as part of the Initial Consultation Report accompanying the Deposit Plan</p> <p>Background papers and evidence will be uploaded to RLDP webpages as they become available.</p>	<p>The Council will follow best practice and consult on the Initial SA Report and HRA Screening Assessment alongside the Preferred Strategy although this will be specifically targeted at the Environmental Consultation Bodies.</p>

				<p>system to record representations electronically</p> <p>The Council will provide notice and statement of pre deposit matters at this stage in compliance with the Regulations</p>		
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### Stage 4 Deposit of Proposals Consultation (LDP Regulation 17) (Definitive Stage)

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>Obtain Council Approval on Deposit Plan and Public Consultation on the: RLDP Deposit Plan The SA (ISA) Report HRA Candidate Sites Assessment</b></p> <p><b>Publication of supporting background documents (evidence)</b></p> <p><b>Publication of Initial Consultation Report</b></p>	<p>To achieve wide input into the Deposit Plan to allow stakeholders and the general public to submit their views on the Deposit Plan, the key policies to guide the development and use of land and the proposed development allocations for varying uses and areas of protection.</p>	<p>Full Council to approve Deposit Plan and supporting documents in May 2025.</p> <p>Public Consultation to be undertaken for a statutory six-week period during June to July 2025 on the Deposit Plan and the SA Report during June to July 2025</p>	<p>Consultation with all stakeholders with an interest in the RLDP:</p>	<p>Public consultation to be widely advertised: Emails to all consultees on the RLDP database Council Social media Channels and website Council Contact Centres</p> <p>Officers will hold as considered appropriate: Drop in sessions Exhibitions Engagement with Community Councils and identified key groups</p> <p>Consultation Documents and representation forms available on: RLDP Website Hard copies of Deposit Plan available at Civic Centre and Guildhall Copy of the Preferred Strategy and representation forms where possible at all Swansea libraries</p> <p>The Council will consider the implementation of an interactive web-based</p>	<p>The Council will record all duly made representations and make a copy of them available as soon as practically possible for inspection at the Civic Centre, Swansea</p> <p>The RLDP Website will give details of the representations received as soon as practically possible.</p> <p>Candidate Sites Register will be updated with New/Alternative Sites submitted during the</p> <p>Representations and responses to them will be reported to Elected Members</p> <p>All representation s and responses, together with any changes to the Pre-Deposit Plan will be made publicly available as part of the Initial Consultation Report accompanying the</p>	<p>The Council will follow best practice and consult on the Initial SA Report and HRA Screening Assessment alongside the Preferred Strategy although this will be specifically targeted at the Environmental Consultation Bodies.</p>

				<p>system to record representations electronically</p> <p>The Council will provide notice and statement of pre deposit matters at this stage in compliance with the Regulations</p>	<p>Deposit Plan Background papers and evidence will be uploaded to RLDP webpages as they become available.</p>	
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**Stage 5 Submission of RLDP and associated documents to the Welsh Government and Planning and Environment**

**Decisions Wales for Independent Examination (Regulation 22) (Indicative Stage)**

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>The Council submit the RLDP and all supporting evidence and background documents to the WG and PEDW for Independent Examination.</b></p> <p><b>The documents that will be submitted include:</b>                      Deposit Plan                      SA (ISA), HRA                      DA (inc CIS)                      Consultation Report                      Review Report                      Candidate Sites Register                      Candidate Sites Assessment                      Copy of duly made representations received at Deposit Supporting documents and evidence.</p> <p><b>The LDP team will notify all stakeholders that the RLDP has been</b></p>	<p>N/A – RLDP required to be submitted in line with LDP Regulation 22</p>	<p>Submission of RLDP expected around December 2025</p>	<p>All stakeholders (including representors) will be notified.</p>	<p>Stakeholders will be informed by                      Email                      Website                      Letters as appropriate</p> <p>Copies of documents will be sent to the WG and PEDW in line with Regulations</p> <p>The Council will publish a statement on its website that the LDP has been submitted for Examination and will make available for inspection during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Swansea.</p> <p>The RLDP and the submission documents will be published online.</p> <p>Hard copy of documents will be available to view at Civic Centre Swansea</p>	<p>The Council will publish any correspondence received from the WG and the Inspector on its website.</p> <p>A Programme Officer will have been appointed who will set up an Examination website and will serve as interface between the LPA and the Planning Inspector.</p>	<p>The SA (ISA) report will be submitted showing how the assessment processes have informed the Plan's content</p>

<b>submitted for Examination</b>						
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**Stage 6 Examination Submission of RLDP and associated documents to the Welsh Government and Planning and Environment Decisions Wales for Independent Examination (Regulation 22) (Indicative Stage)**

<b>WHAT</b> Description and Key Steps	<b>WHY</b> Purpose of Engagement	<b>WHEN</b> Broad Timescales	<b>WHO</b> People involved	<b>HOW</b> Engagement	<b>FEEDBACK</b> Reporting	<b>SA/SEA/ISA</b> Engagement
<p><b>Notification of Independent Examination.</b></p> <p><b>To advise of the appointed Inspector to carry out the Examination and timetabling for a Pre-Hearing Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Publish details of the Hearing Sessions and notify all interested parties specifying dates and location</b></p> <p><b>Identify areas of Common Ground with objectors to focus on hearing sessions</b></p> <p><b>Prepare Matters Arising Changes (MAC's) as appropriate</b></p> <p><b>Consult on MAC's</b></p>	<p>To undertake Independent Examination of the RLDP in line with LDP Regulations and allow stakeholder input into the hearing sessions as required by the Inspector</p>	<p>Notification to be received at least six weeks before the start of the first hearing session.</p> <p>Estimated Pre-Hearing meeting January / February 2026</p> <p>Estimated Hearings commence around February 2026 and will run to April 2026.</p>	<p>All interested parties (including representors). Participation in the hearing sessions will be at the request of the appointed Inspector.</p> <p>Matters Arising Changes – All stakeholders will be able to contribute to consultation on any MAC's.</p>	<p>Formal notification given by email letter to any person that has made (and not withdrawn) a representation</p> <p>Notice placed in local press (if considered appropriate) and on website</p> <p>The public examination will be managed by the Inspector and appointed Programme Officer.</p> <p>Whilst the Inspector will request participation from specific stakeholders the Examination will be open to any member of the public to attend and view proceedings.</p> <p>Examination Library will be available to view on the Council's website but will also be available to view at the Examination venue.</p> <p>Nature and form of the hearing sessions will be</p>	<p>The Programme Officer will manage the Examination website which will keep parties updated and will upload agendas and statements for hearing sessions. All correspondence between the Inspector and the Council will be uploaded to website.</p> <p>The Council will consult stakeholders and the public on any proposed post deposit changes (MAC's)</p>	<p>SA (ISA) related duly made representations can appear at Examination.</p> <p>Any changes made post deposit (MAC's) during Examination or those required by the Inspector will be subject to assessment and made available for consultation</p>

				<p>prescribed by the Inspector and will be published on the website. This will likely be in the form of round table discussions, formal hearings (if requested and agreed by the Inspector) and written submissions</p> <p>Matters Arising Changes will be widely advertised: Emails to all stakeholders on RLDP database Advertised on website Press and Social Media</p> <p>Consultation Documents and representation forms available on: RLDP Website In hard copy at Civic Centre and 17 Swansea libraries</p>		
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**Stage 7 Publication of the Inspectors Report, (Regulation 24) (Indicative Stage)**

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>The Inspector submits his report to the Council detailing the outcome of the Independent Examination</b></p> <p><b>Following a factual check by the Council the Inspectors Report is published within 8 weeks of receipt</b></p> <p><b>Where the Inspector has recommended changes to the RLDP these are binding on the Council and the RLDP must be updated to reflect these changes</b></p> <p><b>All parties will be informed of the receipt and subsequent publication of the Inspectors Report.</b></p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Inspector's Report expected by August 2026.</p> <p>This will be published by the Council on or before LDP adoption.</p>	<p>All stakeholders (including representors) to be notified.</p>	<p>Inspector's Report will be published on the website and will be made available to view in hard copy at the Civic Centre, Swansea and where possible all Swansea libraries</p>	<p>The Inspector's Report will set out their findings as to the soundness of the RLDP including any recommended changes and the reasons for them.</p>	<p>The Inspector's Report will set out their findings on the SA (ISA).</p>

### Stage 8 Adoption (Regulation 25) (An Indicative Stage)

WHAT Description and Key Steps	WHY Purpose of Engagement	WHEN Broad Timescales	WHO People involved	HOW Engagement	FEEDBACK Reporting	SA/SEA/ISA Engagement
<p><b>The RLDP must be presented to Council for approval within 8 weeks of receiving the Inspectors Report. It must also widely publicise its adoption.</b></p> <p><b>Following adoption, the Council will make available copies of the RLDP, Sustainability Appraisal Report and the Adoption Statement</b></p>	N/A	<p>The RLDP will be adopted 8 weeks after receipt of Inspectors Report. This would be expected to be around September 2026.</p> <p>The Post Adoption Statement (under the SEA Directive) is required to be produced within 6 weeks of adoption in line with good practice</p>	<p>Full Council will make the decision to formally adopt the RLDP.</p> <p>All stakeholders (including representors) to be notified.</p>	<p>Adoption of the LDP will be widely advertised via Email, Website Press, and Social Media.</p> <p>The adopted RLDP, adoption statement, SA Report will be made available for inspection at Civic Centre Swansea and where possible all Swansea Libraries.</p> <p>The adoption statement will be sent to anyone who requested to be notified of the adoption of the LDP.</p> <p>4 copies of the LDP and adoption statement will be sent to the Welsh Government</p>	<p>Council meeting agendas and minutes will record the political process.</p> <p>The adopted RLDP and associated documents will be published on the website.</p>	<p>Following adoption, the Council will publish the statutory Annual Monitoring Reports by 31<sup>st</sup> October (unless less than 12 months would have passed since adoption) which will report whether SA objectives are being achieved.</p>

## Appendix 5: Review of Previous CIS

In line with guidance in the Development Plans Manual, in Stage 1 of the DA it is important to evaluate the previous CIS to identify what lessons can be learned and how the new CIS can build on or improve on the previous strategy.

The council attempted to engage people as early as possible during the previous plan preparation process. Using a variety of different approaches, a large volume of information was collected from a multitude of different stakeholders. However, certain methods of engagement were more successful than others and some had unanticipated outcomes. Furthermore, the council recognises there is room for improvement in some areas, especially when it comes to engaging with seldomly heard groups.

For the previous LDP information was often circulated in print form. Printed documents were deposited in council buildings for people to read and/or take. Information was also distributed using local newspapers, newsletters, and leaflets with the intention of reaching as many people as possible. However, it is unclear how many people received this information, and if they did, whether they read the documents. The council received complaints especially from businesses as mailing lists often neglected commercial properties, so they were unaware of what was happening locally in terms of potential development and opportunities to engage. Printing and distributing information uses a great deal of resources which does not comply with the Council's corporate ambition to reduce paper use and become more sustainable. Furthermore, some of the publications used to disseminate information no longer exist or have moved online.

The council intends to move towards a more digital focussed strategy especially when it comes to circulating information. Moving away from predominately printed documents, towards more diverse forms of media. One example could be producing short videos which can be displayed on screens in public areas and published on the council's social media channels and website. A greater emphasis will be on visual media for example posters, that can be displayed in public areas and in council buildings. The intention here is to raise awareness of the RLDP and ways people can get involved by making information more accessible and engaging. More engagement will be done online, in the hope of increasing the number of people who can get involved and have a say. This will involve working with the web team to make the LDP pages as streamlined and easy to navigate as possible, as feedback from the previous plan preparation process mentioned using the website involved too many clicks.

Despite this digital shift, the council is aware that this will not suite some sections of the population. For example, many people do not have access to computers and/or are not comfortable using technology. The intention is not to only engage digitally, but to consider different methods of engagement and to be more targeted in how it engages with certain groups. Physical versions of documents can still be deposited in council buildings however, staff can be briefed to assist engagement with people about the RLDP. In places such as libraries we can display guidance notes and

staff can assist people to use the online resources on public computers or on their smartphones if they have one.

A good example of how carefully targeted information might be more effective than widely distributing paper documents is during the Call for Sites exercise. Previously site notices were posted at every site that had been submitted. This caused unnecessary confusion as people took these notices to be planning applications or approved developments. As a result, many of the responses were not relevant to the plan and yet planning officers still had to analyse them and respond, which was resource intensive. Furthermore, it generated unnecessary antagonism and distress amongst local populations close to sites that were not going to be considered. For the RLDP Call for Sites exercise as soon as reasonably practicable a register of candidate site will be submitted for information only. Site notices will only be displayed for those sites proposed as strategic sites and allocations in the Preferred Strategy and Deposit Plan as appropriate as part of statutory consultation on those documents.

Thinking about how to engage with different stakeholders is vital to a successful CIS. Some groups and individuals responded that they did not feel adequately part of the previous plan preparation process despite concerted efforts to involve them using established networks and partnerships. One example was some councillors felt engagement could have been improved. The CIS, will ensure early and effective engagement with elected members from an early stage. Elected members will be crucial in sharing information about the Plan amongst their constituents.

People with protected characteristics and seldomly heard groups are important stakeholders that can be engaged more effectively. This involves collaborating with our partners to learn about how best to engage such groups and how to involve them in the plan preparation process at appropriate times. Consultation will ensure that bilingual versions of documents are available to improve engagement in Welsh and consultation will seek to facilitate welsh translation if requested. There is also an opportunity to engage with people in other languages by potentially translating some information in the form of summary leaflets at key consultation stages in other widely spoken languages in Swansea.

The team will work with the Council's consultation coordinator in developing effective engagement methods for the relevant consultation stages.

## Appendix 6: Glossary of Terms

<b>Adopted Plan</b>	The final version of the RLDP.
<b>Adoption</b>	The final stage of Local Development Plan preparation where the RLDP becomes the statutory development plan for the area it covers.
<b>Annual Monitoring Report (AMR)</b>	A yearly report to monitor the effectiveness of the RLDP and ultimately determines whether any revisions to the Plan are necessary. It assesses the extent to which the RLDP strategy and objectives are being achieved and whether the RLDP policies are functioning effectively.
<b>Baseline</b>	A description of the present state of an area.
<b>Candidate Site</b>	A site nominated by an individual with an interest in land (i.e. landowner, developer, agent or member of the public) to be considered for inclusion in the LDP. All Candidate Sites will be assessed for suitability for inclusion as potential allocations.
<b>Swansea Council</b>	This is the name of the Local Planning Authority preparing the RLDP.
<b>Community</b>	People living in a defined geographical area, or who share other interests and therefore form communities of interest.
<b>Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)</b>	The Community Involvement Scheme forms part of the Delivery Agreement. It outlines the principles of engagement and provides detail on how the Local Planning Authority will involve communities and stakeholders (including businesses and developers) in the preparation of the Local Development Plan.
<b>Consensus Building</b>	A process of dialogue with the community and other interested parties to understand relevant viewpoints and to seek agreement where possible.
<b>Consultation</b>	A formal process in which comments are invited on a particular topic or draft document usually within a defined time period.
<b>Council</b>	Swansea Council.
<b>Delivery Agreement (DA)</b>	A document comprising the local planning authority's timetable for the preparation of a Local Development Plan, together with its Community Involvement Scheme, submitted to the Welsh Government for agreement.
<b>Deposit</b>	A formal six-week stage in which individuals and organisations can make representations on the RLDP. Representations that relate to whether the plan is 'sound' can then be examined by an Inspector.
<b>Deposit Plan</b>	This is a full draft of the RLDP which undergoes a formal consultation period prior to it being submitted to the Welsh Government for public examination.
<b>Duly Made</b>	Representations to the development plan which are made in the correct manner and within the specified consultation time period.
<b>Engagement</b>	A proactive process that seeks to encourage the involvement and participation of the community and other groups in the decision-making process.

<b>Evidence Base</b>	Information and data that provides the basis for the preparation of the RLDP vision, objectives, policies and proposals and justifies the soundness of the policy approach of the LDP.
<b>Examination</b>	The examination involves public examination of the Deposit RLDP, the Deposit representations, the report of consultation, evidence base/background documents and the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report. This is carried out by the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Welsh Government.
<b>Frontloading</b>	Community involvement and consensus building at early stages of plan preparation
<b>Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)</b>	Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) relates to the assessment of the impacts of a plan (or project) against the nature conservation objectives of European designated sites for any likely significant effects. HRA also ascertains whether the proposed plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site.
<b>Indicator</b>	A measure of variables over time, often used to measure progress in the achievement of objectives, targets and policies.
<b>Inspector's Report</b>	The Report prepared by an independent Inspector who examines the RLDP. The Inspector's Report contains recommendations on the content of the final RLDP and is binding upon the Council. The Council must adopt the RLDP in the manner directed by the Inspector.
<b>Interested Parties</b>	Any person, group, organisation or company wanting to be involved in the preparation of the RLDP.
<b>Involvement</b>	Generic term relating to community involvement that includes both participation and consultation techniques.
<b>Local Development Plan (LDP)</b>	A land use plan which includes a vision, strategy, area wide policies for development types, land allocations, and policies and proposals for key areas of change and protection. Allocations and certain policies are shown geographically on the Proposals Map forming part of the Plan. The LDP is a statutory development plan that each local planning authority area is required to produce in Wales.
<b>Local Planning Authority (LPA)</b>	In the case of Swansea, this is Swansea Council Local Planning Authority.
<b>National Development Framework (NDF)</b>	The NDF will set out a 20-year land use framework for Wales and will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan. The Welsh Government Planning Directorate has begun work on the NDF.
<b>Objective</b>	A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change in trends.
<b>Participation</b>	A process rather than a single event that provides opportunity for direct engagement with the community and stakeholders to input into decision making.

<b>Partners</b>	Other local authority departments and statutory bodies where the RLDP will help to deliver some of the objectives of their strategies. Partners may be expected to contribute in the formulation of relevant parts of the Plan.
<b>Planning and Environment Decisions Wales (PEDW)</b>	An independent body who will be responsible for the formal examination of the RLDP.
<b>Planning Policy Wales (PPW)</b>	Planning policy guidance for Wales produced by the Welsh Government is set out in this document
<b>Pre-Deposit</b>	Stages of preparation and consultation of the RLDP before the Deposit Plan is finalised and approved by the Council.
<b>Preferred Strategy</b>	This sets out the broad strategic direction for the RLDP. This includes the preferred level of growth along with the spatial strategy for distributing the growth. It also includes the vision, issues and objectives of the Plan.
<b>Press Releases</b>	Sent to Welsh media, including newspapers, radio and television news stations as appropriate. Media may choose not to print or broadcast an item.
<b>Regulation</b>	Regulations are set out in Welsh Statutory Instruments. They provide the framework for the preparation of the RLDP.
<b>Report of Consultation</b>	A Consultation Report is one of the documents required to be submitted for independent examination. An initial consultation report is also required for the pre-deposit stage.

<b>Representations</b>	Comments received in relation to the RLDP, either in support of, or in opposition to.
<b>Review Report</b>	The Review Report provides an overview of the issues that have been considered as part of the full review process and identifies changes that are likely to be needed to the RLDP, based on evidence. It also sets out the type of revision procedure to be followed in revising the LDP.
<b>Scoping</b>	The process of deciding the scope and level of detail of an integrated sustainability appraisal (SA), including the sustainability effects and options which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be used and the structure and contents of the SA Report.
<b>Soundness Tests</b>	In order to adopt a RLDP it must be determined to be 'sound' by the Planning Inspector. The Tests of Soundness are set out in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3, March 2020). There are three tests to make that judgement in relation to the plan as a whole. A framework for assessing the soundness of LDPs has been developed by the Planning Inspectorate.
<b>Stakeholders</b>	People whose interests are directly affected by a RLDP (and/ or Integrated Sustainability Appraisal/ Strategic Environmental Assessment) and whose involvement is generally through representative bodies.
<b>Strategic Development Plan (SDP)</b>	A Strategic Development Plan is a tool for regional planning to cover cross-boundary issues such as housing and transport. It will be prepared by a Strategic Planning Panel across a region. LPAs must have regard to the SDP when developing their LDPs.

<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</b>	Generic term used internationally to describe environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes. The European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) requires a formal “environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes, including those in the field of planning and land use”.
<b>Submission</b>	When the RLDP, ISAR and HRA are formally submitted to the Welsh Government for independent examination by a Welsh Government appointed Inspector.
<b>Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)</b>	Provide more detailed or site-specific guidance on the application of RLDP Policies. They provide supplementary information in respect of the policies in a LDP. SPG does not form part of the RLDP and is not subject to independent examination.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal (ISA)</b>	Tool for appraising policies, including LDPs, to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (i.e. social, environmental and economic factors). Each LPA is required by Section 62(6) of the Act to undertake SA of their Local Development Plan. This form of sustainability appraisal fully incorporates the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive.
<b>Sustainability Appraisal Report (SAR)</b>	A document required to be produced as part of the Sustainability Appraisal process to describe and appraise the likely significant effects on sustainability of implementing a LDP, which meets the requirements for the Environmental Report under the SEA Directive. Section 62(6) of the Act requires each LPA to prepare a report of the findings of the SA of the LDP. It is an integral part of the development plan making process.
<b>Timetable</b>	Sets out the dates by which key stages and processes of RLDP preparation are expected to be completed. These are definitive for stages up to the deposit of the RLDP and indicative for the remaining stages after.
<b>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)</b>	The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is legislation that requires public bodies, such as local authorities, to put long term sustainability at the forefront of their thinking to make a difference to lives of people in Wales. Local authorities must work towards the seven well-being goals and enact the five ways of working set out in the Act.
<b>Workshop</b>	Where members of the public have the opportunity to engage in group debates and practical exercises with written or drawn ‘output’.



## Integrated Impact Assessment Implications Screening Forms

## Third Swansea LDP Annual Monitoring Report

**Which service area and directorate are you from?**Service Area: **Planning and City Regeneration**Directorate: **Place****Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?**

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

**(b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:**

**Name: The Third Annual Monitoring Report (AMR 3) of the Swansea Local Development Plan.**

**Description: As part of the statutory development plan process, following adoption of the LDP, the Council is required to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report setting out how the objectives of the Plan are being achieved, how the strategy, key policies, allocations and infrastructure requirements are being delivered, and identifying any challenges, opportunities and contextual changes in which the Plan operates. The AMR has been prepared in-line with Welsh Government (WG) regulations and guidance. The AMR must be submitted to WG by 31<sup>st</sup> October each year.**

This report is the third AMR and covers the period April 2021-March 2022, the third full year in which the Plan has been adopted and in operation. **It is a factual report being presented to Council for its findings to be noted and approved.**

Local Planning Authorities have a requirement to keep their development plans up to date and consider the need for review. National legislation requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the LDP no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption to ensure the LDP and supporting evidence is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions.

The AMR has identified that a statutory review of the LDP is required to commence by February 2023 at the latest in order to meet this requirement. On this basis, irrespective of the findings of

the AMR report with regard to individual indicators, it is recommended that, in-line with the process prescribed by Welsh Government guidance, a review is commenced of the LDP and a Review Report should be prepared in order to determine the type of procedure to be followed in preparing a Replacement LDP (RLDP).

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches?  
Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

Welsh Government (WG) guidance for producing the AMR, contained in the Development Plans Manual (Edition 3), outlines the consultation requirements of the monitoring process. It requires that stakeholder engagement is undertaken to inform the monitoring of housing development. In-line with this guidance, in addition to the close dialogue that the LPA has with developers and RSLs on sites, and the regular Council Developer Forum meetings, the LPA undertook consultation with the local development sector through the Home Builders Federation (HBF) Wales in July 2022.

The Council reviewed the draft monitoring information against the feedback received from the stakeholder engagement and made amendments accordingly.

The Council has fulfilled the mandatory consultation requirements of the WG guidance in preparing the AMR. The final AMR will be made available to view on the Council's website.

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**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

a) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?

Yes  No

b) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?

Yes  No

c) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?

Yes  No

d) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?

Yes  No

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**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

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**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

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**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

~~The report will be made public on the relevant page on the Council website.~~

**Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

**The AMR is purely a factual monitoring report, it does not introduce new policy nor impact on people in itself. The AMR provides a factual report on the implementation of the LDP and on this basis the IIA screening identifies the AMR itself will have no or little impact on the identified groups.**

The AMR is based on the adopted LDP monitoring framework which can only be altered to conform with updates to WG national policy and guidance. The LDP monitoring framework was examined by independent Inspectors during the preparation of the LDP and found to be sound. The LDP was subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) process which incorporated an Equalities Impact Assessment therefore the Plan has already been assessed in this respect.

Overall, the majority of indicators continue to show positive policy implementation. There are however, some key policy indicator targets that are not being achieved, suggesting those policies are not functioning as intended, and in these instances the monitoring has confirmed that these issues in particular will need to be addressed as part of the Replacement LDP. The need to replace the LDP is not solely based on the AMR 3 but on the statutory four year review cycle of development plan preparation. The outcome of the AMR is that the LDP requires review in line with the statutory timescales for this to take place. The review of the LDP will be undertaken subject to full statutory processes, with IIA and consultation and engagement embedded as part of the process.

The content of the LDP Annual Monitoring Reports including the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) monitoring findings will be essential and important components to take into account at the future review stage.

## **Outcome of Screening**

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

### **Summary of impacts**

**The screening has identified no impacts on the protected groups identified and low potential risks.** The IIA screening is an update to that undertaken for AMR 1 in 2020 and AMR 2 in 2021 which both previously came to the same conclusions. The AMR itself is a factual document.

### **Summary of involvement**

The Council has fulfilled the mandatory stakeholder consultation requirements of the WG guidance in preparing the AMR, as set out within Development Plans Manual (Edition 3), specifically in relation to the monitoring of housing development. In-line with this guidance, in addition to the close dialogue that the LPA has with developers and RSLs on sites, and the regular Council Developer Forum meetings, the LPA undertook consultation with the local development sector through the Home Builders Federation (HBF) Wales in July 2022. The Council reviewed the draft monitoring information against the feedback received from the stakeholder engagement and made amendments accordingly. The final AMR will be made available to view on the Council's website and will be provided bilingually to maximise opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and to comply with the Welsh Language Standards.

### **WFG considerations**

The LDP itself was fully assessed against the WFG. The AMR is a factual monitoring report of the LDP.

### **Risks**

No risks have been identified from producing the AMR. The Council is required to produce the AMR annually and would incur risks if it did not complete it.

### **Cumulative impact**

The screening has identified no cumulative impacts on the protected groups identified and low potential risks. The IIA screening is an update to that undertaken for AMR 1 in 2020 and AMR 2 in 2021 which both previously came to the same conclusions. The AMR itself is a factual document and does not introduce new policy.

The AMR3 identifies many of the LDP policies are working effectively, with the majority of indicators continuing to show positive policy implementation, thereby providing an indication that the LDP is delivering many significant benefits to communities across the County. There are however, some key policy indicator targets and monitoring outcomes that are not being achieved. This indicates that these policies are not functioning as intended, and in these instances the monitoring has confirmed that these policy issues will need to be addressed as part of the LDP review which will be triggered by the LDP being 4 years old. The Plan review should be seen as an opportunity to review these policies and to gain an understanding of the reasons why each policy was not implemented as expected. Furthermore, the national development framework, national planning policy and associated legislative requirements have changed since the LDP was adopted, and thus the LDP requires updating to reflect those changes. The review of the LDP will be undertaken subject to full statutory processes, with IIA and consultation and engagement embedded and fully integrated.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the **‘Integrated Assessment Implications’** section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name: R Henderson /S Thomas</b>
<b>Job title: Senior Planning Officer / Principal Planning Officer</b>
<b>Date: 12 October 2022</b>
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b>
<b>Position:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Draft Swansea Local Development Plan Review Report 2022

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning and City Regeneration

Directorate: Place

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

#### Local Development Plan Review Report 2022

Local Planning Authorities (LPA) have a statutory duty to keep their development plans up to date and to undertake a formal review of the LDP at the required time. The Council's Third Annual Monitoring Report (AMR 3), covering the period 2021-22, highlights that national legislation<sup>1</sup> requires the Council to undertake a comprehensive review of the Swansea LDP **no longer than 4 years from the date of its adoption**. This is in order to ensure the LDP, and its supporting evidence, is up to date and continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions. Given the Swansea LDP was adopted in February 2019, the statutory requirement to commence a review of the Swansea LDP is **by February 2023 at the latest**.

**The primary functions of the Review Report are to determine the appropriate procedural route for replacement LDP preparation, and to identify key issues to be considered when taking the LDP process forward. The Review Report in itself does not make any changes to the LDP, policy or land allocations.**

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Approval of the Review Report will set out that the Council intends to review the existing LDP. It is not considered the RR alone will have impacts on the groups identified above. However, the actual preparation of the Replacement LDP will have impacts on the above groups and accordingly an IIA will be undertaken on the replacement LDP as whole.

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

The draft LDP Review Report will be subject to limited and targeted stakeholder consultation with key specific and general consultation bodies as recommended via Welsh Government’s Development Plans Manual. This will commence in December 2022 and will run for 5 weeks until January 2022. The consultation will involve:

- Notification emails posted to a targeted range of stakeholders, including specific and general consultation bodies as suggested in the Welsh Government’s Development Plan Manual.
- A specific web page created for the LDP Review that will describe the consultation process, provided a weblink to the document.
- All materials will either be bilingual or available in Welsh as a separate document.
- Officers will be available to discuss the Draft Review Report with the specific bodies consulted

Comments received in response to the consultation will be collated and evaluated, and reported in a Consultation Report alongside the Council’s response to a future meeting of Full Council, together with a final version of the LDP Review Report (amended as necessary) for submission to Welsh Government. The results of the Consultation Report will be published as part of the final LDP Review Report on the Council website. At this Council meeting it is anticipated that the LPA will also present the Replacement LDP Draft Delivery Agreement inc Community Involvement

Scheme for approval for public and stakeholder consultation which represents the first key stage in the preparation of the Replacement LDP.

All subsequent stages of the LDP review process for the preparation of the Replacement LDP will be subject to public and stakeholder consultation, as set out within legislation and regulations. This will be set out within the Delivery Agreement and Community Involvement Scheme. The LDP will be subject to an Examination in Public by a Planning Inspector who will test the replacement LDP for 'Soundness'.

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**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- e) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- f) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- g) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- h) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No

---

**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

---

**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

**The Review Report itself will not impact upon other Council services.** The outcome of the Report i.e. agreement to undertake a Replacement LDP will have an impact on other service areas. The preparation of the replacement LDP will require involvement from services across the Council, including Education, Housing, Regeneration, Nature Conservation, Highways and Drainage to ensure that the RLDP fully integrates all corporate strategies. This will be important to ensure the RLDP reflects wider Council objectives as part of its strategy for the development and use of land in the County and that it delivers a sustainable Placemaking approach for the benefit of present and future generations.

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**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details below

A period of targeted stakeholder consultation with key specific and general consultation bodies is required for the review report, so the draft Report, comment form and information for consultees will be made available in English and Welsh. Page 906



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**Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

The report is a review of the extant Local Development Plan, as required by national legislation. The Review Report reviews evidence upon which the LDP is based, along with the national planning framework and associated legislation. The Review Report determines whether the LDP continues to provide a sound basis for planning decisions or if it does require a review, the extent of that review. Consequently, the draft LDP Review Report has determined that the LDP should be subject to full review and recommends that preparations begin to prepare a Replacement LDP. **The LDP Review Report itself has no impact or cumulative impact on the peoples and groups identified in Q2. It will be the subsequent preparation of the Replacement LDP which will have impacts on the majority of groups identified and the entire RLDP process will be subject to IIA which will be integrated in plan development from the outset.**

### **Outcome of Screening**

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The IIA screening identifies that the Review Report itself will result in no impacts on all groups and issues identified in Q2. The Review Report recommends that a Replacement LDP (RLDP) is commenced and IIA will be integrated into the preparation of the Replacement LDP from the earliest opportunity.

The Review Report, together with the consultation process, follows legislation and guidance produced by the Welsh Government. Consultation with targeted stakeholders will take place between November 2022 and December 2022. Following stakeholder consultation, the report will be amended where appropriate and a decision will be taken by Council with regard to reviewing the Local Development Plan, prior to submission of the Review Report to Welsh Government.

The LDP is fully aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It is an integral part of the planning framework and LDP Review process.

No risks are identified. The Review Report is required by statutory legislation. The process which has been followed is set out within Welsh Government guidance. The Review Report itself does not require an IIA. Following approval of the final Review Report, the LPA will present a report to Council setting out a draft Delivery Agreement (including a Community Involvement Scheme) for public consultation regarding the preparation of the Replacement LDP. The LPA will consult with the public and stakeholders on a draft Delivery Agreement plus Community Involvement Scheme in 2023, which itself will be subject to IIA. Following consultation, and consideration of comments received an amended Delivery Agreement (as appropriate) will be presented to Full Council seeking approval for its submission to Welsh Government. Once the Welsh Government formally approves the Replacement LDP Delivery Agreement, the Replacement LDP preparation process will formally commence and this will have a fully integrated IIA from the outset and be subject to full public and stakeholder consultation, as set out within legislation, regulations and guidance.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the 'Integrated Assessment Implications' section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> R Henderson
<b>Job title:</b> Senior Planning Officer
<b>Date:</b> 26/09/22
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b>
<b>Position:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Draft Swansea RLDP Delivery Agreement

## Which service area and directorate are you from?

Service Area: Planning Services

Directorate: Place

### Q1 (a) What are you screening for relevance?

- New and revised policies, practices or procedures
- Service review, re-organisation or service changes/reductions, which affect the wider community, service users and/or staff
- Efficiency or saving proposals
- Setting budget allocations for new financial year and strategic financial planning
- New project proposals affecting staff, communities or accessibility to the built environment, e.g., new construction work or adaptations to existing buildings, moving to on-line services, changing location
- Large Scale Public Events
- Local implementation of National Strategy/Plans/Legislation
- Strategic directive and intent, including those developed at Regional Partnership Boards and Public Services Board, which impact on a public bodies functions
- Medium to long term plans (for example, corporate plans, development plans, service delivery and improvement plans)
- Setting objectives (for example, well-being objectives, equality objectives, Welsh language strategy)
- Major procurement and commissioning decisions
- Decisions that affect the ability (including external partners) to offer Welsh language opportunities and services
- Other

### (b) Please name and fully describe initiative here:

Publication and consultation on the Draft Delivery Agreement (incorporating Community Involvement Scheme) for the County's Replacement Local Development Plan (RLDP).

The Draft Delivery Agreement (DA) sets out how the process for the preparation of the RLDP will be undertaken which in line with national guidance should be a succinct public statement containing two main parts:

- A **Timetable** of the key stages of Plan preparation; and
- A **Community Involvement Scheme (CIS)** which details how and when the community will be able to get involved in the plan preparation process

The DA is an important part of the Replacement LDP preparation process and has been prepared in accordance with Welsh Government regulations and guidance including The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2015 and the Local Development Plans Manual 2015 (The Manual).

The DA sets out the timetable for the production of the RLDP which must be approved by Welsh Government. The DA contains a Community Involvement Scheme (CIS) which indicates how and when the Council will provide opportunities for consultees and the local community to be involved in the RLDP process, as set out in relevant legislation, regulations and Welsh Government guidance.

The DA (including CIS) does not contain any policies or proposals, but is the essential project management tool to guide the production of the RLDP, setting out the methodology, timetable and processes. The LPA is committed to the stated timescales and public and stakeholder consultation processes. Adherence to the approved DA is considered as part of the tests of soundness that the appointed Inspector will assess at the Examination stage.

**Q2 What is the potential impact on the following: the impacts below could be positive (+) or negative (-)**

	High Impact		Medium Impact		Low Impact		Needs further Investigation	No Impact
	+	-	+	-	+	-		
Children/young people (0-18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Older people (50+)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any other age group	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Future Generations (yet to be born)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race (including refugees)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Asylum seekers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gypsies & travellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or (non-)belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual Orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Language	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty/social exclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carers (inc. young carers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Community cohesion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Q3 What involvement has taken place/will you undertake e.g. engagement/consultation/co-productive approaches? Please provide details below – either of your activities or your reasons for not undertaking involvement**

The draft DA (including CIS) will be subject to a 4 week period of public and stakeholder consultation including key specific and general consultation bodies including necessary statutory engagement with the WG and PEDW.

The DA includes the RLDPs Community Involvement Scheme (CIS). National guidance indicates the LDP system aims to achieve a number of key points. Of key relevance:

*‘Plans should be based on and underpinned by early, effective and meaningful community involvement in order to understand and consider a wide range of views, with the aim of building a broad consensus on the spatial strategy, policies and proposals’ and*

*‘It is essential when preparing the plan an LPA involves the right people at the right time seeking greater consensus and strengthen community involvement at the plan making process’ (Development Plans Manual, Edition 3)*

The CIS will seek to deliver on the above objectives and will set out who will be formally involved in the forthcoming RLDP process and how and when the participation and consultation on each stage of the RLDP will occur. In line with the manual regard has been had to WBFGA2015 and the five ways of working when preparing the CIS and involvement of stakeholders. Similarly, the previous CIS (for the LDP) has been reviewed in terms of lessons learned to inform the current scheme. The CIS has been prepared with regard to the Council’s Consultation and Engagement Strategy.

Following the close of public consultation the Council will consider responses received and make changes to the DA, where considered necessary. The final DA will be presented to Full Council for approval and subsequently submitted to the Welsh Government. The formal start of the RLDP can commence following Welsh Government approval of the DA.

The approved DA (including CIS) will be made available for inspection at the principal offices of the Local Planning Authority (currently the Civic Centre) and will be published on the website

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**Q4 Have you considered the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 in the development of this initiative:**

- i) Overall does the initiative support our Corporate Plan's Well-being Objectives when considered together?  
Yes  No
- j) Does the initiative consider maximising contribution to each of the seven national well-being goals?  
Yes  No
- k) Does the initiative apply each of the five ways of working?  
Yes  No
- l) Does the initiative meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs?  
Yes  No

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**Q5 What is the potential risk of the initiative? (Consider the following impacts – equality, socio-economic, environmental, cultural, legal, financial, political, media, public perception etc...)**

High risk

Medium risk

Low risk

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**Q6 Will this initiative have an impact (however minor) on any other Council service?**

Yes  No **If yes, please provide details below**

Other relevant Council departments will be involved in the draft document and be consulted as part of the public and stakeholder engagement exercise.

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**Q7 Will this initiative result in any changes needed to the external or internal website?**

Yes  No **If yes, please provide details below**

The draft DA (including CIS) will be published on the external website, alongside public consultation information.

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**Q8 What is the cumulative impact of this proposal on people and/or communities when considering all the impacts identified within the screening and any other key decisions affecting similar groups/ service users made by the organisation?**

*(You may need to discuss this with your Service Head or Cabinet Member to consider more widely if this proposal will affect certain groups/ communities more adversely because of other decisions the organisation is making. For example, financial impact/poverty, withdrawal of multiple services and whether*

*this is disadvantaging the same groups, e.g., disabled people, older people, single parents (who are mainly women), etc.)*

The DA and CIS will set out the timetable and methods by which stakeholders, members of the public and groups will be formally involved in, and consulted upon during, the production of the RLDP and how and when the participation and consultation will occur.

The impacts on the groups identified within Q2 will be positive, as the CIS seeks to actively engage them in the RLDP process. No cumulative impacts are identified.

## **Outcome of Screening**

**Q9 Please describe the outcome of your screening using the headings below:**

- **Summary of impacts identified and mitigation needed (Q2)**
- **Summary of involvement (Q3)**
- **WFG considerations (Q4)**
- **Any risks identified (Q5)**
- **Cumulative impact (Q7)**

The draft DA sets out the timetable for the RLDP and the CIS sets out the consultation and engagement strategy for each stage of the RLDP process; who will be formally involved in the forthcoming RLDP process and how and when the participation and consultation will occur. The CIS recognises that at certain stages it will be more effective to engage a targeted range of stakeholders or representative bodies, in order to keep participation effective and meaningful; and manageable stakeholder events will be targeted to the most relevant bodies/representors. All statutory consultation stages will be subject to full public consultation. As a result, the impacts on the selected groups highlighted in Q.2 above are considered to be 'medium', as they are specifically listed within the CIS as 'Seldomly Heard Stakeholders'. The impacts will therefore be positive, as the CIS seeks to actively engage these groups in the RLDP process. To achieve effective engagement with these groups the CIS seeks to use existing partnerships and groups wherever possible. Trusted intermediaries will also be used, as appropriate, in order to gain the views of particular groups or individuals who lack the confidence to engage directly in the process. Nevertheless, it is recognised that there may be some difficulty engaging some groups. This is why the Council aims to engage through a variety of different methods in the hope that at least some will appeal to people's specific needs. The RLDP team will liaise with the Consultation Coordinator in the planning of future consultations.

The draft DA will be subject to a 4 week period of public and stakeholder consultation including key specific and general consultation bodies. This will include statutory consultation with Welsh Government and Planning and Environment Decisions Wales.

In line with the Welsh Governments Development Plan Manual, regard has been had to WBFGA 2015 and the five ways of working when preparing the CIS and involvement of stakeholders. The CIS has also been prepared with regard to the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy, Strategic Equality Plan and Equality Objectives.

The DA has regard to the Council's Equality and Well-being Objectives and the CIS demonstrates that the production of the LDP will involve numerous consultation and engagement opportunities, including targeted engagement in order to engage specific communities and groups in Swansea in the preparation of the future land use planning framework of the County.

No risks to the publication of the draft DA have been identified. The previous CIS (for the LDP) has been reviewed in terms of lessons learned to inform the current scheme to ensure risks are minimised. The definitive stage of the timetable is considered to be both realistic and achievable based upon the expected resource input into the RLDP process. Whilst the Council will seek to avoid

departure from the timetable, a number of risk areas that could lead to departure from the proposed timetable are identified and set out within the DA, alongside proposed mitigation and minimisation measures. The Council will monitor the timetable and will report any significant deviation (of more than 3 months) to the Welsh Government and stakeholders.

No cumulative impacts have been identified.

(NB: This summary paragraph should be used in the **‘Integrated Assessment Implications’** section of corporate report)

Full IIA to be completed

Do not complete IIA – please ensure you have provided the relevant information above to support this outcome

NB: Please email this completed form to the Access to Services Team for agreement before obtaining approval from your Head of Service. Head of Service approval is only required via email.

<b>Screening completed by:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Ruth Henderson
<b>Job title:</b> Senior Planning Officer
<b>Date:</b> 17/01/23
<b>Approval by Head of Service:</b>
<b>Name:</b> Phil Holmes
<b>Position:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

Please return the completed form to [accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoservices@swansea.gov.uk)

# Agenda Item 18.



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service & Performance

Council – 2 March 2023

### Membership of Committees

<b>Purpose:</b>	Council approves the nominations/amendments to the Council Bodies.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Political Groups.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The amendments to the Council Body listed in paragraph 2 be approved.
<b>Report Author:</b>	Gareth Borsden
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	N/A
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	N/A

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Meetings of Council regularly agree and amend the membership of the various Committees/Council Bodies as reflected in the lists submitted by the Political Groups.

#### 2. Changes to Council Body Membership

- 2.1 The political groups have indicated that they have changes to the following Council Bodies:

##### **Governance & Audit Committee**

Remove Councillor Terry Hennegan  
Add Labour Vacancy

#### 3. Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.



#### **4. Legal Implications**

4.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

**Background Papers:** None

**Appendices:** None

# Agenda Item 19.



Council – 2 March 2023

## Councillors' Questions

### Part A – Supplementaries

1	<p><b>Councillors Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams &amp; Mike Lewis</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on delivery of the internal employability programme. With £600,000 being invested can the Cabinet Member highlight how this investment is being used and what benefits and outcomes it has delivered. Will the Cabinet Member also provide an outline of the plans for 23-24.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</b></p> <p>ERF Steps To Employment Placement Swansea (STEPS) Following on from the success of recent initiatives to provide paid work placements under the Kickstart Scheme, Workways+ and Pathways to Work, the Economic Development and External Funding Team secured ERF funding to establish and facilitate 50 x 6 month fully paid work placements and associated support and training.</p> <p>The team have sourced and secured over 80 placement opportunities within council departments for people who are most at risk of long-term unemployment. The project (STEPS) has provided unemployed and economically inactive people supported by employability provision with pre placement support and access to these new opportunities.</p> <p>Each person is provided with wrap around mentoring support and training during the placement, to maximise the benefit of the opportunities and to help them to look for work towards the end of the placement. Participants have gained valuable skills, knowledge, experience and training whilst earning an income.</p> <p>The placement opportunities are shared with employability support providers on the Swansea Employability Network group and referrals have been received from Workways+, Pathways to Work, Communities For Work, Gower College, Barnardos, Youth Service and YMCA.</p> <p>To date, 50 placements have started and of the 9 who have completed placements, 8 have secured employment and 1 has entered education. There are some placements, 5 in all, which did not proceed to the full 3 or 6 months, work trials are completed prior to the paid element of the placements starting to mitigate this. The last 5 placements have been allocated and will start in February and March with the remaining 39 participants completing their placements between now and July'23.</p> <p>The council departments and managers involved in hosting placements have been supportive and together with the Mentors and Employer Liaison officers in the Economic regeneration team, have made the scheme a success for participants.</p> <p>There is a higher demand for placements from unemployed individuals and council departments than we are currently able to offer. For this reason, the remaining 5 placements were reduced from 6 months to 3 months in duration to enable more unemployed people to access the scheme. There is also a demand for placements</p>
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with external employers where specific roles and sectors are no available within the authority.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will fund 80 x 3-month paid placements an associated wrap around support and training within council departments and with external employers.

The tables below provide a summary of the activity to date.

Placement Status	Total Participants
Active	36
Pending	5
Completed	9
In work or Education	9
Left early	5
Male	38
Female	17
Total	55

Council Departments	Placements Filled	Employed
Corporate Building Services	13	2
Corporate Building Services- Support services	2	0
Highways- Car Parks, Maintenance and Infrastructure	11	4
Social Services Direct Payments	1	0
Social Services - Admin, Support workers	6	1
Social Services Business support	3	1
Economic Development and External Funding	1	0
Poverty and Prevention -Swansea Working	4	0
Libraries	2	0
Contact Centre- Customer Services	1	0
Security	Pending	
Parks and Cleansing- Clerical, Maintenance and support worker	5	0
External - Morganstone and Penllergaer Trust	2	0
Total	51	8

**2 Councillor Chris Evans**

The Welsh Government have advised that we have until late next year to confirm whether we, as a local council, wish to switch to a Proportional Representational form of voting to replace First Past the Post in Council elections. In terms of improving democracy, improving public participation and as a way to try to increase voter turnout, would we consider running elections from 2027 on a Proportional Representation basis instead of First Past the Post.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 provides that the simple majority voting system applies to local elections unless and until the Council changes the voting system for the first time. The Act allows Principal Councils to choose which Voting System it wishes to use. The choice being:

First Past the Post (FPTP).  
Single Transferable Vote (STV).

First Past The Post is the voting system currently in use for Local Government Elections. The system requires a Voter to place a cross (X) next to their preferred Candidate on the Ballot Paper. The Ballot Papers are counted and the Candidate with the most votes is elected to represent the Ward. A simple majority is all that is required.

Single Transferable Vote (STV) asks Voters to rank candidates in order of preference by marking 1, 2, 3 and so forth on the Ballot Paper. A voter can rank as many or as few Candidates as they like or vote for only one Candidate. Each Candidate needs to reach a quota. This is the minimum number of Votes calculated according to the number of seats and votes cast. The first preference votes for each Candidate are added up. Candidates who achieve this quota are elected. Surplus votes from Candidates who hit the quota go to second preference Candidates. Votes from the Candidate with the fewest first preference votes who do not achieve the quota are eliminated. Their votes go to the second preference.

If a Council wishes to change its voting system to STV, it will require a resolution of Council with the support of at least two-thirds of the total number of councillor seats on the Council. It would be a dedicated Council meeting for this sole purpose with at least 21 days written notice given. A resolution would need to be passed by 15 November of the year that is three years before the year in which the next ordinary election is due. To change the system for the next local government elections in 2027, this would be by 15 November 2024.

It is important to note that before it can exercise its power to change the voting system, a Principal Council would have to consult locally. This would include people entitled to vote at the local government election, each Community Council in the area and any other people it considers appropriate.

Any council opting to change its voting system would be required to use the new system for the next two rounds of ordinary elections. In the case of a by-election for a casual vacancy, the voting method used at the previous ordinary election would be used. After those two rounds, it could decide whether to return to the previous voting system.

If a council exercises its power to change the voting system, the council must notify the Welsh Ministers and the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission of the change. After receiving a notification, the Welsh Ministers may direct the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales to conduct an initial review of the area of the council. Welsh Ministers must consult the Commission before such a direction, and persons representing principal councils as the Welsh Ministers consider appropriate.

Provisions for initial reviews as outlined above are set out in Schedule 1 of the 2021 Act, which requires that if a Council adopts STV, the number of Councillors for each electoral ward is to be no less than three, but no more than six.

The reality is that no voting system is perfect. Forms of Proportional Representation (PR) can regularly result in unstable coalition administrations which lack direction, coherence, and focus. Coalitions often dilute what they have offered the public at

the election, as the relevant parties negotiate away parts of their manifesto. PR systems also regularly result in disproportionate influence being given to the smallest parties or individuals. This distorts the majority position.

At a local level the risks are more pronounced as a scenario could arise where an individual with extreme views, who may have only gathered a few hundred votes, may be placed in a powerful position to prevent delivery of what hundreds of thousands of people have voted for.

Successful administrations are often those that have stable majorities and clear priorities.

**3 Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy & Stuart Rice**

In light of the petition to the full council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023, does the Council have any plans current or future to dispose of open public green spaces in the City & County of Swansea, and what are they.

**Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services & Performance**

I can confirm that there are no proposals to dispose of open public green spaces on the open market.

On the 17th November 2022 Cabinet approved a report recommending the transfer of various sporting and leisure facilities including recreational land to various community clubs and associations. The report was in accordance with the Councils Community Asset Transfer Policy and included a list of recreational land and associated buildings to community organisations, clubs and associations at less than best value in order to enable investment, improvement and long-term sustainability.

As part of the reporting and decision making, the Council defined an approved list of sites and the proposed leaseholders to transfer to under the principles of the Policy. Each application will require approval from the relevant Head of Service, the Head of Property Services in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s). Following an in principle approval from Cabinet for transfers, the Head of Property Services will consider each individual transfer in accordance with the Council's Land Transaction Procedure Rules. The list of sites approved within the report are as follows;

<u>Plot No.</u>	<u>Description of Land</u>	<u>Leaseholder and reason for proposed disposal</u>
<u>1</u>	Cricket pitches at Tir Canol, Morriston	Long leasehold disposal to Morriston Cricket Club to continue to improve and maintain facilities as use for cricket
<u>2</u>	Rugby Pitches at Tir Canol, Morriston	Long leasehold disposal to Morriston Rugby Club to continue to improve and maintain facilities as use for rugby
<u>3</u>	Coed Gwilym Park Boathouse / Heritage Centre at Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	Long leasehold disposal to the Friends of Clydach Heritage Centre who have occupied the property via licence since 2011. This will allow them to invest in and improve the property.

<u>4</u>	Football Pitches Coed Gwilym Park, Clydach	Long leasehold disposal to Friends of Coed Gwilym to continue to improve facilities and take on long term maintenance for use for football in partnership with local football club(s)
<u>5</u>	Pentyla Playing Fields -The Ganges	Shorter term leasehold disposal to Rosehill Community Football Club to allow them to invest in and improve the area for the playing of Football and as a public green space. The FC currently self-manage the football pitches.
<u>6</u>	Ynystawe Park – Cricket and Football pitches and associated changing rooms	Long leasehold disposal to Ynystawe Cricket and Football Club to enable investment in and improvement of the pitch and changing facilities at Ynystawe Park. The club have been occupying and successfully managing the pitches under licence for 2 years.
<u>7</u>	Mumbles Bowls Green and Pavilion	Long leasehold to Mumbles Community Council to continue to improve facilities and formalise long term maintenance obligations in place with local the bowls club.
<u>8</u>	Ashlands/Banfields Playing Fields	Long leasehold disposal to Port Tenant Colts Football Club to enable investment into the facility. They have been successfully managing the facility since 2016.
<u>9</u>	Part of Oystermouth Woodland, Mumbles	Shorter Leasehold disposal to Mumbles Community Council to enable the improvement to the area's infrastructure. The area in question was previously improved by the Mumbles Development Trust but they are no longer able to maintain the area and have terminated their lease agreement. Mumbles Community Council have been occupying via licence for 2 years and are investing in the environmental infrastructure.
<u>10.</u>	Part of Clyne Gardens	Short Leasehold disposal to Coedenfach Community Tree Nursery for the growing of native species of trees from locally collected seeds using organic, peat free methods. This helps towards reaching the Councils Biodiversity goals.

	11.	Halfway Park Football Pitch and Changing Rooms	Long leasehold disposal to Brynawel AFC to enable investment in and improvement of the pitch and changing facilities at Halfway Park. The club have been occupying and successfully managing the changing rooms under licence for 3 years. They have already made some improvements to the changing rooms and a longer lease will allow them to invest further.		
4	<p><b>Councillors Fiona Gordon, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>The City and County of Swansea has a duty of care to the men in Swansea prison. Therefore, will the Cabinet Member update council on what actions has Swansea Council has taken to help rehabilitate people back into the community.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Wellbeing</b></p> <p><u>Housing</u></p> <p>The Council's Homelessness services work within the parameters of the National Pathway for households leaving prison. The pathway aims to prevent prison leavers from becoming homeless on release from custody and thereby improving their resettlement into communities and reducing their risk of reoffending. The pathway provides guidance for criminal justice agencies delivering services to prisoners with housing related needs in managing referrals for housing assistance and communication and relationships between key agencies. This includes referrals for homelessness applications as well as any action that can be taken to ensure a person does not lose their home as a result of their custodial sentence. We have a dedicated Resettlement Officer at Housing Options which ensures we have a clear route to respond on housing issues.</p> <p>Housing staff are involved with a number of multi-agency meetings where plans are agreed for those leaving custody, such as resettlement meetings with probation staff/prison staff and MAPPA (multi-agency public protection arrangement) meetings. This provides an opportunity to identify accommodation that is suitable on release from custody and ensure support is offered. A range of housing options will be considered including a dedicated supported housing project in Swansea who provide accommodation to people on release from custody who have substance misuse issues and are committed to a programme towards abstinence. Similarly, staff from Probation are represented at the Street Vulnerability Meetings to ensure that information is shared regularly about those who are vulnerable in the City Centre and needing additional support.</p> <p><u>Employability Support</u></p> <p>We work closely with Probation, both in in-custody and out of custody Probation Officers to support men and women from, or who settle in Swansea.</p> <p>We work in partnership with the prison system locally and regionally with Employability Support. This includes working with HMP Swansea, HMP Parc with all employability-based activity and with those released from Eastwood Park Prison.</p>				

We sit on the Swansea Prison Employment Advisory Board and have been involved in the development of the Employment Hub within HMP Swansea. This includes;

- Supporting the Employment Hub within the Prison engaging with those 12 weeks prior to release.
- Swansea Working, alongside Working Wales are a point of contact prior to and post release.
- Information sessions held in HMP Swansea about the support available.
- Supported with the development and implementation of training and employment initiatives including Recruitment Fayres, sector specific training and employer days within HMP Swansea.
- Providing more intensive support in the two weeks prior to release including employment, housing and other leaving custody related issues.
- Assisted HMP Swansea to increase their percentage of custody leavers into employment. E.g. We have supported over 35 men in the last 4 months with various forms of support to find employment, training and with other related issues.
- Our team liaise with Probation Officers around licence conditions and terms of employment on behalf of the men and women to ensure communication between all and that all are aware of progress and procedures are followed.
- We have links to the regionally employability broker for Prisons in Wales sending us referrals and a link in Eastwood prison who also does this too.

#### Health and Social Care

The Social Services and Well-being Act (Wales) 2014 makes Welsh local authorities responsible for assessing and meeting the social care needs of adult offenders in Wales and places a duty on prisons and the probation service to collaborate with local authorities to ensure the provision of social care.

We are members of the HMP Swansea, Health, Well-being and Social Care Partnership Board and contribute to the Prison's Health, Social Care and Well-being Delivery Plan. We have a Memorandum of Understanding in place for the provision of care and support services for people within the secure estate in Swansea. This includes access to information, advice and assistance to meet their care and support needs and advocacy to ensure people are actively engaged in expressing their views in determining how best to meet their personal well-being outcomes.

When we are made aware that an adult in a custodial setting may have care and support needs, an assessment and associated care and support plan will follow the same procedure and criteria as if they lived in the community.

Our Social Work team work with the Probation Service to advise on planning for an individual's release from prison and provide appropriate input into discharge planning to ensure social care needs continue to be met in the community through a sustainable resettlement plan.

**5 Councillors Jeff Jones, Mary Jones & Nicola Furlong**

For several sports, Singleton Park represents one of sports iconic venues, at local, national and international levels.

Over the past three years, sports bodies have been denied the use of the park due to perceived potential damage. Some recent sporting events have been given



approval by Special Events only for the Parks Dept; to veto the event at the last minute.

Recently the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) made an enquiry to hold their national cross-country championships in Singleton Park this February only for the Parks Dept; to again refuse to guarantee that the event would be cancelled at the last minute.

It would appear that Swansea does not want to support amateur sport in the park. Will the Cabinet Member please tell Council if this is going to be normal practice going forward.

### **Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration & Tourism**

Singleton Park hosts a diverse programme of both amateur and professional sporting and cultural events every year. Many of which have benefited from free use as part of the Council's Economic Recovery Fund over recent years, aiding their recovery and development and in turn supporting our local economy.

All events within Singleton Park are overseen by the Special Events Team. As part of the planning process, the Events Team engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including the Council's Parks service in order to balance the needs of the event against the needs of other stakeholders including the general public and the overall impact on the Park.

When events are discussed, event organisers are made aware of any potential risks, especially when their activities take place during the wetter winter months. Organisers are also made aware that all events are subject to a final sign-off a few days before they are due to take place. In order to manage expectation and inform any event planning that they may be undertaking, this is made absolutely clear to the organiser at the outset and it is therefore their decision as to whether they wish to proceed on this basis. Our sports pitches are managed in a similar way. As part of the sign-off process, weather forecasts are reviewed and potential damage is discussed. On the rare occasion when potential damage outweighs the benefit of holding the event, discussions take place with the organisers to see if additional mitigation would assist, an alternative part of the park may be utilised, or whether or not the event should be postponed to a later date. Again, organisers would be fully aware of this process from the outset.

The Council has always supported amateur sport events in Singleton Park as it does in many other locations across the City and County of Swansea.

Only 2 events have had to be cancelled in the last three years. Both as a result of an extended period of extremely wet weather and both when no other alternative has been possible. Cancellation is always seen as a last resort option and it is not a decision that is taken without significant consideration both from the outset and nearer to the actual date of the event.

To date, the Events Team has not received a formal enquiry to hold the British Universities and Colleges Sports National Cross-Country Championships.

In line with a previous response to Councillors questions relating to events causing excessive damage to the park, weather conditions during October do seem to be deteriorating year on year and the Events Team is currently reviewing the level of risk that this entails when considering any events during this period and the months immediately following.

6	<p><b>Councillors Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis &amp; Fiona Gordon</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the delivery of the bin replacement programme.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>The bin replacement programme is progressing well and has received positive feedback from Ward Members and the public. The Team have replaced a number of defective bins on an ad-hoc basis where the condition of the litter or dog bin was such that it needs removal straight away, and are now focussing on a ward by ward basis. Once a ward bin condition survey is complete, Ward Members are sent a programme of proposed bin replacements for their information and comment. To date, just over 250 new litter bins have been installed, replacing damaged litter and dog bins. There are a further 250 bins to be installed as part of the initial project. The Council has secured additional funding for a further 54 multipurpose litter bins in partnership with Keep Wales Tidy, and further funding via the Caru Cymru Project is currently being sought to fund an additional 90 – 100 bins.</p>
7	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Jeff Jones &amp; James McGettrick</b></p> <p>In Swansea professional dog walkers are free to take out any number of dogs and there is no assurance they are trained or insured. Considering the recent case of a member of the public being savaged by several dogs who became out of control of the dog walker will Swansea Council consider licensing professional dog walkers.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>There are currently no powers available that would allow the Council to licence professional dog walkers. A response to a recent consultation from Welsh Government on animal licensing, highlighted a number of activities which currently fall outside the scope of animal licensing legislation, including dog walking. The response also confirmed that the Council fully support a review of all animal related activities that are not currently regulated.</p>
8	<p><b>Councillors Francesca O'Brien &amp; Brigitte Rowlands</b></p> <p>What has been the total expenditure on the planning for and installation of speedbumps in the whole of the Gowerton ward. Please include all costs relating to the bumps, signage and any other enabling works. We now hear that the speed bumps are going to be removed on Cecil Road, so please also provide a cost for the removal of these bumps and provide an indication on whether, if needed elsewhere, the bumps that will be removed are re-useable or will be disposed of.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The total expenditure in traffic calming features introduced in Gowerton was £150,000. The cost of the cushion removal in the area to be resurfaced are not separately costed within the overall scheme costs but are relatively small in relation to the original scheme cost.</p>

	<p>The cushions in the area to be resurfaced were lifted at a cost of £3,000 and have been set aside for re-use. Speed/volume surveys have been undertaken prior to the cushions being lifted and these will be repeated once traffic flows have stabilised through the town. The results of the surveys will then be reviewed and consideration be given to the benefits that were being achieved by the measures and a decision reached on what traffic calming measures are reinstalled.</p>
9	<p><b>Councillors Mike Lewis, Mike White, Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon &amp; Lesley Walton</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the work of the Cleansing Ward Operative Teams.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>Following a recruitment programme all Cleansing Ward Operative Teams (CWOT) are in place, being supported by a Working Supervisor and Operational Area Manager (OAM). The CWOT Operatives have settled well into their new roles and there is a good, positive team dynamic. Ward Members are actively using the agreed CWOT reporting procedure to identify works required in their Wards each month. Take up by Ward Members is generally high and it is anticipated that submissions will increase further throughout the coming year. CWOT continue to identify enhancement works in each ward area to supplement those submitted by Members. The OAM also prompts Members by email the week before the CWOT are due in their ward. Feedback received to date is generally very positive with the Teams being well received. Works completed, with photos, are fed back to Ward Members on a weekly basis, and whilst this process is time consuming, since its introduction it has also received very positive feedback from Members.</p>
10	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>On how many dates since opening has the Swansea Arena been used for events. How many occasions has this been at full capacity.</p> <p><b>Response of the for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>Since opening in February 2022, ATG have hosted 56 ticketed performances with an average occupancy of 80% across each event at Swansea Arena. 21 of these performances were sold out to capacity - including 7 performances of Jersey Boys, Alice Cooper, Royal Blood, Corey Taylor, Paul Heaton &amp; Jacqui Abbot and a number of high profile comedians. Over these 56 performances, 105,000 tickets have been sold.</p> <p>ATG have also held approximately 85 conferences, seminars and corporate events, outside of ticketed performances, bringing the total number of events since opening to circa 141.</p>

11	<p><b>Councillor Lyndon Jones &amp; Francesca O'Brien</b></p> <p>As we have seen from around the UK, Freeport's provide huge financial benefits and act as a catalyst to create good jobs. What work has Swansea Council done to promote the bid for Swansea to become a Freeport.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>On 1st September 2022 the UK and Welsh governments jointly launched the Freeport prospectus for Wales. At the CJC meeting on the 11th October Members agreed to support the principle of a collaborative bid prepared by Neath Port Talbot County Borough and Pembrokeshire County Council in partnership with Associated British Ports (ABP Port Talbot) and the Port of Milford Haven.</p> <p>The Freeport prospectus lists three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote regeneration and high-quality job creation;</li> <li>• Establish the Freeport as a national hub for global trade and investment across the economy, and</li> <li>• Foster an innovative environment.</li> </ul> <p>An application to create a dual-centred Freeport was submitted on the 24<sup>th</sup> November and it is understood that the Welsh and UK governments will make a decision in Spring 2023. The prospectus places a strong emphasis on decarbonisation and the Ministerial Foreword recognises that “ports have huge potential to accelerate future industries which support net-zero, from off-shore energy to advanced manufacturing”.</p> <p>The Freeport bid – branded as the ‘Celtic Freeport’ - includes 3 individual tax sites with a combined area no greater than 600 hectares. Each of the sites include contiguous development land across Port Talbot and Milford Haven/Pembroke Dock which will enable and incentivise new investment, innovation and job creation. Importantly, the bid is designed to achieve additionality and thereby mitigate the potential for displacement across the region. The bid will also ensure that the Welsh government’s social partnership (‘fair work’) agenda is supported and reinforced. These were key issues raised by partners within the region when taking informal soundings about the proposed consortium bid.</p> <p>I believe that the Celtic Freeport submission is the best freeport bid in Wales, and this region is well placed to become a national and international leader in green technology. If successful, the proposal will have significant economic benefits for the wider region and is complementary to the Blue Eden lagoon project in Swansea.</p>
12	<p><b>Councillors Andrew Williams, Mike Lewis, Wendy Lewis, Fiona Gordon &amp; Lesley Walton</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member provide an update on what the successful levelling up bid will deliver for Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Leader</b></p> <p>The Lower Swansea Valley scheme will deliver three geographically-defined projects, which consolidate a strategic path of investments in historic assets which aims to highlight and enrich the legacy of Victorian entrepreneurialism and copper</p>

	<p>industry. Key to this is the creation of a new heritage destination at Hafod-Morfa Copperworks which will include exhibitions, hospitality, and marketplace options through the regeneration of historic buildings. River linkages, public realm improvements and a reimagining of Victorian Railway arches will improve the public interface between Hafod-Morfa Copperworks and the City Centre. Finally, Swansea Museum will be substantially upgraded to increase exhibition space and cultural offer.</p> <p>The bid is formed of three geographically-defined projects focussing on prominent aspects of the legacy of Victorian entrepreneurialism and its effects on the modern city, bringing them into relief against the strong regeneration programme underway across the county.</p> <p><b>Project 1</b> consolidates the industrial legacy of the copper industry on the banks of the River Tawe at the Hafod-Morfa Copperworks, preserving the rich heritage features including several listed buildings, releasing them for business use, preparing for new private sector investment and increasing connectivity of local communities and visitors alike telling the story to new generations.</p> <p><b>Project 2</b> picks up the river linkages and eases the public interface with the core City Centre through re-use of Victorian railway arches enabling access to public transport by bus, rail and river, continuing the heritage experience currently underplayed.</p> <p><b>Project 3</b> creates a mutual destination with the heritage corridor in upgrading and enhancing Swansea Museum, oldest in Wales, enabling a richer display of the history of the place, bringing its collection nearer to the increased exhibition space to release the Copperworks rolling mill for mixed use regeneration and economic benefit.</p> <p><b>Economic Case &amp; Impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Job and GVA* creation</b> – expected to support 106 gross direct jobs, 69 net additional jobs and will generate £5.7m gross direct GVA per annum and £3.7m net additional per annum.</li> <li>• <b>Increased footfall</b> – programme will enhance over 6,000 sqm of public realm settings in Swansea, thus increasing footfall and supporting surrounding businesses and amenities.</li> <li>• <b>Visitor numbers</b> – through the above investments there will be a forecasted increase of 11,500 additional visitors to the V&amp;S Shed and engine houses. The overall programme of investment will bring about an additional 8,350 additional overnight visitors and 31,200 daytime visitors each year.</li> </ul> <p>*gross value added (GVA) is the measure of the value of goods and services produced in an area, industry or sector of an economy.</p>
13	<p><b>Councillors Kevin Griffiths, Mark Tribe &amp; Graham Thomas</b></p> <p>Why are we being refused a skateboard park in Pontarddulais when we have been told there is money available. Is Pontarddulais being disadvantaged at the expense of other areas some of which already have facilities.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Investment, Regeneration &amp; Tourism</b></p> <p>The Council has made a significant commitment of £1m via the ERF to improve Skate and Street Sport provision across Swansea. This will be delivered through a city wide strategy informed by an assessment of the current provision, condition surveys and suggested options for future improvement. There are approx. 20 sites</p>

	<p>across the city that either have existing skate/wheeled sport provision, or have already recorded demand from local groups and stakeholders for new or improved provision. The range, type and quality of current provision ranges from limited provision (but with local demand); small/poor condition of aging facilities; medium/reasonable/good; and major attractions with new investment more recently.</p> <p>With support from a number of skate organisations and groups, who share our drive and passion to deliver better skate facilities, views and suggestions from users and the community will be central to decisions. An element of the funding available will cover the costs of this work, which includes securing specialist expertise to ensure we have a clear, deliverable strategy which is best for the progression of this growing sport, accessible and sustainable for users. Pontarddulais, which has existing provision for both skate and BMX located in Coed Bach Park, will be included in these assessments, and further reviewed for any expansion or improvements as part of this project.</p>
14	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Lesley Walton, Andrew Williams &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member update on the Mumbles sea defence scheme and what enhancements the public can expect to the promenade areas.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Mumbles Coastal protection works are being developed as part of the Welsh Government Coastal Risk Management Programme, designed to safeguard communities in light of projected sea level rise. The works will address the poor condition of the existing sea defences which are currently subject to wave overtopping in present day extreme events and tidal overtopping. The scheme will provide suitable and sustainable flood defences that will protect commercial and residential properties, amenities and services as well as major transport routes into Mumbles. The face of the sea wall will include textured formwork to encourage the growth of algae and colonisation by marine invertebrates. The scheme will provide not only a flood defence betterment, but will also bring wider benefits for regeneration and tourism.</p> <p>Works include widening the existing promenade to reduce cyclist and pedestrian conflict by increasing the width to a minimum of 6 metres to provide space for both pedestrians and cyclists. This will improve connectivity, accessibility, and promote sustainable active travel opportunities. The promenade south of Oyster Wharf will become more accessible with regular pedestrian access points to connect the promenade with the existing businesses and uses along Mumbles Road. Several bike hubs will be located at regular intervals along the promenade. These will include cycle stands and bike maintenance points, with existing shelters located at Oyster Wharf and Verdi's to be retained. Existing access to the beach will be maintained and improved to provide betterment for users.</p> <p>The public realm has been designed to improve the quality of user experience, whilst safeguarding the character of the area. The scheme will include new seating, lighting and play opportunities, whilst biodiverse planting will be incorporated to align with the authorities ambitions to introduce sustainable green infrastructure. Additional greening will be introduced adjacent to the promenade near Southend gardens that will support improved links to the existing play attraction, but also incorporate new features to encourage active play for visitors and the local</p>

	<p>community. This area will also continue to support pop-up food and beverage opportunities, whilst also providing enhanced links to support existing businesses along Mumbles Road with new crossing points.</p> <p>The furniture along Mumbles seafront has been carefully chosen to reinforce the history of the town and provide more opportunities for social interactions for all abilities. The public realm features will make reference to the areas rich heritage, including reference to the Swansea to Mumbles railway and its importance to the local fishing industry. Interesting and informative interpretation and signage along the promenade will provide opportunity for the public to engage in Mumbles, past, present, and future.</p> <p>Improved lighting will also be provided along the prom. This will take the form of new additional low level lighting bollards as well as replacing the existing lighting columns along the prom. This will provide a safe and more inclusive environment, whilst also supporting the night time economy of the area. The new lighting will continue the member led works to improve lighting along the promenade. The scheme also seeks to provide 46 new trees along the length of the promenade as well as additional planting and landscaping of the area. The species have been chosen due to their resilience to the harsh conditions found on the seafront.</p> <p>Significant effort is being made to ensure that disruption is kept to a minimum during the development of these key works. Drop-in sessions are being provided for the community and local businesses, parking opportunities are being carefully managed around the works phasing and options to utilise the land train to provide additional provision for visitors are also being developed.</p> <p>The Councils are developing options that will enable continuation of the Swansea Bay rider landtrain throughout the peak periods of the season in 2023. Working with the contractors and private landowners there are proposals to create a temporary stop and turning circle near to the Dairy car park in close proximity to the main gateway into the village. This will ensure alternative options available to visitors to access Mumbles during busier periods of weekends, bank holidays and during school holidays when demand for car parking will be greater.</p> <p>Overall, the development will provide visual improvements to the area, creating a sustainable and attractive waterfront - an asset to the local community and an attraction for visitors.</p>
15	<p><b>Councillors Bev Hopkins, Mike Lewis Lesley Walton, Wendy Lewis &amp; Mike White</b></p> <p>How has the Community Budget enabled Councillors to make a difference in their wards.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Community Budget scheme helps deliver many local exciting initiatives that are a priority for individual Councillors and their community.</p> <p>Councillors are able to allocate funding to any scheme providing it is legal, complies with the Council's constitution and the Council's policies and procedures.</p> <p>We took the decision to raise community budgets from £1000 per year under the previous Lib Dem/Independent administration to massive £10'000 per member per year.</p>

	<p>The community budget has been such a resounding success that we further increased it this year to £15,000 over the coming term, this enables members and residents to have even more say on community focussed schemes that directly affect their own local area.</p> <p>The are many excellent projects that have come forward thanks to the community budget.</p> <p>Life-saving defibrillators in community locations, bus shelters, donations to local schools and community charities, investment in parks and play, low level lighting, supporting local sports clubs or events, minor footpath or road improvements and spending on floral displays.</p> <p>The fund makes a significant contribution to projects that make a huge difference to the look and feel our communities. Quite often the projects are suggested by residents themselves and it's the local members that help make the ambition a reality.</p> <p>Part of a councillor's role is to be a community champion for their area. This budget has enabled them to give a voice to their residents and provide support for projects they want to see succeed.</p>
16	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Bev Hopkins, Mike Lewis Lesley Walton &amp; Wendy Lewis</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet Member update Council on the lighting scheme around the bay.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Following on from the resounding success of the initial low level lighting scheme in West Cross I am pleased to see that procurement for the next phase is well under way. After the procurement process is completed we should see delivery within 6-8 weeks and to ensure a quick installation, trenching and ducting work will commence in advance of the delivery of the bollards. The low-level, environmentally-friendly lights are being fully funded by the Council via the Economic Recovery Fund for smaller-scale projects in communities across the city.</p> <p>The scheme will light the promenade alongside the bay and will improve the facility for walkers, cyclists and other promenade users.</p>
17	<p><b>Councillors Mike White, Lesley Walton &amp; Mike Lewis</b></p> <p>Would the Cabinet Member provide an update on what rural development projects have taken place across Swansea.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Delivery of the current Rural Development Programme commenced in July 2015, and since then the Rural Development Partnership has awarded £461,695 in grant funding to 29 projects across rural areas in Swansea. The projects that have received funding are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellbeing through Woodcraft, delivering a new and innovative social-prescribing approach involving woodland based activities.</li> </ul>



- Rhossili Community Hub which provides an interactive communication platform for residents.
- Mor Hapus, running workshops to raise awareness of coastal ecological systems
- Let's Get Together community playscheme in Reynoldston
- Cae Felin Volunteering and Biodiversity Management project linking with the Llŵchwr GP cluster to provide social prescribing opportunities
- FLOW – Fairwood LEADER funded outcome-based work to produce a fully tested and costed results based payment proposal for Fairwood Common
- Mawr Biodiversity Project to develop and transform Ffordd Ellen in Craig Cefn Parc and Garnswllt field, Garnswllt into accessible green space for the community.
- Gower Pilgrimage Way and Festival to promote and interpret a 50 mile long walking route linking 17 historic Gower churches, several chapels and other Christian sites.
- Feasibility study for 'Mapping Local Produce and Shorten Supply Chains in Rural Swansea'
- Y Future in Swansea project enabling young people to engage, promote and discuss youth environmental advocacy and activism, green technology, waste management, climate action and climate justice
- Gower Flax project to explore natural fibres and regenerative textile systems
- Gower Ambassador Programme, online training and development to build a team of local volunteers that will provide a warm welcome to visitors and act as knowledgeable hosts
- Growing Community through Forest Gardening in Murton, Gower
- Nature Area for Outdoor Learning in Bishopston Primary School
- Big Meadow Community Supported Agriculture based in Llangennith
- Gower Off Road Cycles Routes utilising the existing network of bridleways across Gower
- Feasibility study and outline business plan for a Community Hub in Pennard
- Market at the Mill, an experimental community owned produce market evening
- Gower Activity Centres feasibility study to maximise the potential of Ty Borfa and Ty Rhossili
- Port Eynon Foreshore feasibility study
- Feasibility Study to investigate the viability of Community Carbon Offset project
- Cae Tan Community Supported Agriculture
- Digital Marketing for Sustainable Transport in Rural Swansea
- Swansea Rural Community Voice, a digital tool for communities to make their voices heard, reach decisions, and coordinate projects that matter to them
- Iron Age Roundhouse Educational Facility at Gower Heritage Centre
- Gower Community Tourism Ambassador Pilot and Feasibility Study
- Gower Sunday Explorer Buses 2016 and 2017-19 (two projects) providing a revised and improved bus service between Swansea and Gower on Sundays in mid and high season
- Killan Community Solar Farm, a feasibility study to investigate the potential for a community owned solar farm

In addition, the Rural Development Partnership has directly commissioned the following projects:

- 'Stories of a Changing Landscape, a Farmers Perspective' to raise awareness of mental health support in Rural Swansea. The commission has provided the

	<p>opportunity for farmers to talk about the heritage of farming in rural Swansea, about the successes and the difficulties experienced, which have been captured through a series of films and photographs. The project culminated with exhibitions in Scurlage, Pontarddulais and Swansea Museum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Rural Communities Feasibility Study to explore opportunities identified in Pontarddulais, Penclawdd, Llangyfelach and Mawr</li> <li>• Rural Swansea Resource/ Visitor Centre Feasibility Study</li> <li>• Rural Swansea Sustainable Transport Network Feasibility Study</li> </ul> <p>Further details on all projects funded through the Rural Development Programme are available on the Swansea Council website at: <a href="#">Rural Development Programme (RDP) projects - Swansea</a></p>
	<p><b>Part B – No Supplementaries</b></p>
18	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>The Boulevard project involved the planting of semi-mature trees in the central reservation and looked very nice when new. Unfortunately, time has taken its toll less than a decade later. The trees have decorative metal grilles at the base of the trunk which were flush with the paving with a coating of gravel bonded in a orangey pink resin. Many of the grilles have lifted up quite significantly and in some cases large lumps of resin have broken free and are sitting in on the paving stones which are also starting to lift. Are there any plans for remedial work to reset the grilles, paving and repair the resin please or will things be left as they are.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>These tree grills were originally installed to allow for the staged removal of the porous resin bound gravel (loose gravel tends to get kicked onto footways and carriageways). The material needs to be porous to allow as much moisture as possible to percolate down to the trees root system. Unfortunately this system has not worked well and the method will not be used on future projects. The remaining root protectors are being assessed with a view to complete removal.</p>
19	<p><b>Councillors Peter May, Allan Jeffery, Sandra Joy &amp; Stuart Rice</b></p> <p>What is the current projected total cost for repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance for Swansea schools.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Members for Education &amp; Learning and Service Transformation</b></p> <p>The current projected total cost for repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance for Swansea schools is £50,383,342. This figure needs to be taken in the context of Swansea's total anticipated capital spend between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2023 of £98m which includes capital maintenance, and Band A and Band B associated investment. The figure is an indicative cost for all repairs, renewals and backlog maintenance work to bring all Swansea schools up to a B condition rating, based on the last surveys that were undertaken and 2022 prices. This data represents a snap</p>

	<p>shot in time and is not designed to provide an understanding of future degradation of the condition of schools. In addition, costs identified only take into consideration assets and elements that were deemed to be in “C – Poor with major defects” or “D – Bad; life has expired or risk of imminent failure” at the time of the survey. No costs have been identified for future maintenance or asset replacements required as a result of future degradation. The figures and condition ratings are calculated in line with the methodology set out by Welsh government in 2018, so it’s consistent across all local authorities.</p> <p>As a result of significant sustained investment in new and better school buildings as part of the £150M schools Capital programme, the backlog figure has reduced by circa £60M compared to the figure in 2017.</p>
20	<p><b>Councillor Chris Evans</b></p> <p>Given the reduce, reuse, recycle hierarchy of dealing with waster, is it possible for a small Tip Treasures type area to be set up at the other recycling centres in Swansea as well as Llansamlet to help us increase the amount of waste that is re-used.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Community (Services)</b></p> <p>Unfortunately, whilst setting up a number of Re-use Shops across the Swansea area would help to further promote re-use, our other Recycling Centres are not suitable because they are not large enough to accommodate a premises large enough to be able to generate sufficient income to cover the ongoing costs of staff needed to run the facility, and do not have sufficient customer parking to suit the needs of a shop.</p> <p>Each of our Recycling Centres does have a container for receiving donations for re-use, which are then transferred to Tip Treasures for assessment, testing &amp; repairs as necessary, pricing, and putting on display.</p>
21	<p><b>Councillor Chris Evans</b></p> <p>The Council has done well creating our active travel network, however the recent cold snap has shown that active travel is still playing second fiddle to other forms of transport with a number of accidents reported to me, and cyclists being forced to use more polluting forms of transport. Will the council commit to properly gritting the major national cycle routes that run through the county as they would major roads to keep them open and safe in poor weather.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Swansea Council is one of the most successful council’s in Wales in terms of securing WG funding to create more Active Travel routes throughout Swansea. Clearly we are committed to increasing the number of people that choose to walk and cycle and reduce the need to use a car or other motorised mode of transport.</p> <p>Limited resources with Winter Maintenance requires the council to focus on main routes in the city and enables us to cover around 45% of the entire highway network in Swansea. This means main roads used by motorists, public transport and emergency services are kept moving during icy conditions.</p> <p>This winter we have been extremely busy and have used around 2,200 tonnes of salt to treat our roads, travelling more than 27,500 kilometres.</p>

	<p>The focus on main roads means footways are not treated – and this includes footways where shared use cycle paths are featured.</p> <p>We always advise the public to take care in icy conditions and drive, walk or cycle with care if they are using untreated routes.</p> <p>We have almost 900 grit bins in communities around Swansea which are filled ahead of the winter period and residents can use these to add additional salt to treat pavements in the communities.</p> <p>The situation is however being kept under review and could be changed over time as people’s travel habits change and/or additional funding becomes available from Welsh Government.</p>
22	<p><b>Councillors Peter Black, Mary Jones &amp; Susan Jones</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Members please provide a list of the number of agency and temporary staff employed by each department and the annual cost.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>The latest position with regards to agency workers is available in a Governance and Audit report (8<sup>th</sup> February 2023) in which the numbers and costs of agency provision across departments are detailed. Link to the report is here - <a href="#">Agency Worker update Feb 2023</a>.</p>
23	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Mike Day &amp; Cheryl Philpott</b></p> <p>Parking Charges - We note that there is a two-tier system of charges proposed. We support the idea of local residents paying less than visitors. Could the Cabinet Member please explain how this will work.</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>This is a new and exciting scheme unique to Swansea and not available anywhere else in Wales. As with all new initiatives there are some operational issues that the Council and our equipment suppliers are working to overcome. When parking in one of our multi storey car parks the proposal is for a QR code printed on The Big Heart of Swansea discount card or via a newly developed smartphone app. The card will be scanned at the payment terminal to receive the required discounted parking tariff.</p> <p>In order to obtain the Big Heart of Swansea card an application will need to be completed and proof of a residential Swansea address will be required.</p> <p>Customers using the MiPermit smart phone application will need to download the app and register their details confirming their Swansea address. When paying for the parking period in Pay and Display car parks the app will automatically display the discounted residents’ tariff.</p> <p>Customers wishing to pay at the machine will need to enter their vehicle registration number as normal, and if a Swansea resident press the button to select the Swansea residents’ tariff via the pay and display machine menu.</p>

	<p>The Council will be giving out further information on the scheme as we move closer to the go live date in its Car Parks and through its social media channels.</p>
24	<p><b>Councillors Lynda James, Chris Holley &amp; Michael Locke</b></p> <p>Swansea Boy's Club has stood empty for many years and is falling into dereliction and an eyesore on the skyline. Could the Cabinet Member explain what has happened to the previous plans to restore and use this building</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>Council officers were in dialogue with the Boys and Girls Clubs in Wales during 2018 to determine if they were able to secure the substantial funding required to refurbish the dilapidated former Boys club which has been empty since they originally vacated the property in 2006. As the organisation was unable to present a viable proposal the building was sold by the Council on the 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019.</p> <p>A planning application to change the use from a Community Facility (Class D2) to Residential Dwellings (Class C3) and redevelopment of the site to provide 23 units with associated roof extension, new vehicular access, infrastructure and landscaping works was approved in March 2021. Subsequent applications to discharge some of the conditions have been approved, although other pre-commencement conditions still need to be discharged before the development commences. The planning permission remains valid until March 2026 by which time the development needs to have lawfully commenced.</p>
25	<p><b>Councillors Mark Tribe, Kevin Griffiths &amp; Sam Bennett</b></p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member agree to conducting a survey where street signs for the main routes through central Swansea are identified as absent. A local resident has conducted their own survey and found that the majority of such street names are absent which could lead to confusion for visitors and residents alike</p> <p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Environment &amp; Infrastructure</b></p> <p>The Highway Authority is responsible for the maintenance of around 6000 streets which amounts to at least 12000 street name plates. Replacement of nameplates is generally reactive in nature following reports from the public and local members. I will review how the Council can raise awareness of the mechanisms for reporting missing street signs.</p>
26	<p><b>Councillors Michael Locke, Mary Jones &amp; Chris Holley</b></p> <p>Having recently spoken to a stall holder in Swansea it is apparent that stall holders have been waiting for over a year for Wi-Fi to be enabled in Swansea Market. Apparently the infrastructure has been put in place, with the delay associated with Wi-Fi installation in the Arena. With many customers using contactless payment Wi-Fi is important for market traders, currently they have to use dial up which is very slow. Wi-Fi would also be useful for the public in the newly created seating area at the centre of the market. Could the Cabinet Member give an update on progress and a possible start date for the Market Wi-Fi.</p>

	<p><b>Response of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Service &amp; Performance</b></p> <p>A commitment has been made to the provision of free wi-fi at Swansea Market and the Copr Bay area of the city centre and work is underway. This wi-fi technology will undoubtedly benefit visitors, residents and businesses such as Swansea Market traders.</p> <p>There has been a delay with the delivery of the wi-fi service due to ongoing building works in the Copr Bay development. The original micro-duct and fibre installation has had to be taken down but the connections will be re-established. A few snagging issues have also been identified and are being rectified.</p> <p>Officers and contractors are aiming to complete the work as soon as possible. Swansea Market traders and customers will be advised as soon as the service is available.</p>